

Heman Marion Sweatt

TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE



TRAVIS COUNTY CENTRAL CAMPUS

Facilities Master Plan

Heman Marion Sweatt
TRAVIS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Prepared as a Component of the
TRAVIS COUNTY CENTRAL CAMPUS
Facilities Master Plan

June 2010 - Revised August 2010
LIMBACHER & GODFREY Architects

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The cornerstone was fabricated by Anton Stasswender and made of Texas Gray Granite. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, PICA 13521.



Introduction

Overview and Methodology

When the historic courthouse opened in 1931, it was the pride of the county. A grand building in the latest architectural style, 93,000 square feet in area, it held all the branches of county government under one roof. By 1955 though, the county population had tripled, the aging building was overcrowded, and planning for expansion and improvements began. Large additions were made to three sides of the building in 1958, and the size of the building was increased by about 60%. Only a few years later, a second addition was made in 1962, doubling the size of the penthouse jail. As the courthouse passed the 50-year mark, the county population had increased over five-fold, and major remodeling was done to insert new courtrooms into the crowded building in 1984. The county's growth has continued, with a population now over ten times that of 1930. The jail, criminal courts and many general government functions once located in the historic courthouse are now in off-site facilities, but the infill construction and sometimes unsympathetic modifications remain. The current long-range master planning effort for the Travis County Central Campus is an opportunity to set new preservation goals for the historic courthouse, and make it the pride of the county once again.

This study of the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse is a component of the *Travis County Central Campus Facilities Master Plan*, prepared by Broadus & Associates for Travis County. The study is an abbreviated historic structures report and preservation master plan, and includes information on the history of the courthouse, an overview of existing conditions and broad recommendations for preservation treatment of the building. The study is intended to identify opportunities for preservation and restoration of significant elements and spaces remaining in the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse. The information will inform the planning team, as recommendations for the future use and preservation of the historic courthouse are formulated.

Construction drawings for the original 1931 construction phase and subsequent major additions and renovations, completed in 1958, 1962 and 1964, were provided by Travis County for use in this study. Drawings for some of the more recent interior renovation and remodelling projects were also made available for review. The construction specifications for the 1931 and 1962 construction phases were located in the holdings of the Austin History Center and provided useful information about the requirements for the materials and construction methods used in the building.

Historic photographs of the original construction work, the completed building exterior and interior, and later additions and renovations were located in the Austin History Center and the Texas Department of Transportation photo archives. Photographs of NAACP activities, including several taken in the courthouse during the course of the Heman Sweatt trial, were located in the holdings of the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

The office staff of the Travis County Clerk provided frequent access to Commissioners Court minutes for information relating to the development and maintenance of the courthouse. The minutes were searched for references to the courthouse, including the site, construction, furniture, furnishings, maintenance, alterations and improvements. (A synopsis of the relevant minutes is included in the appendix.) Additional research was conducted at the Austin History Center, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, Legislative Reference Library and Texas State Law Library, to locate reference materials about the building, the county courts system and contemporaneous descriptions of significant events.

Travis County provided copies of previous reports and studies of the courthouse, commissioned by the county, for review. Also, memoranda of understanding between Travis County and the Texas Historical Commission were reviewed, to assist in determining the preservation priorities previously defined for the historic courthouse. Finally, a general sense of the condition, occupancy and use of the building was gathered during the course of two day-long site visits, to assist in preparing the broad preservation recommendations.

*The second Travis County Courthouse, located at 11th and Congress, about 1895.
Image courtesy of Texas Historical Commission.*



History and Development

Early Courthouses of Travis County

The Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse is the third courthouse building constructed by the citizens of Travis County. In 1856, a two-story stone structure with a rear jail building was built on the Courthouse and Jail Block (located in the original plan of the city of Austin at the southwest corner of 4th and Guadalupe, near present day Republic Square) at a cost of around \$16,000. By 1874, the location was deemed inconvenient to the residents of the county, and business was moved to temporary quarters at 6th and Congress, on Block 70. The following year, the county officials authorized the construction of a new courthouse and jail located at 11th and Congress, on Block 123. The county secured a 100-year lease of the land from the State of Texas. Architect Jacob Larmour designed a spectacular Second Empire style courthouse, which was built by Burt McDonald. The buildings were completed and occupied in 1876, at a cost of around \$200,000.¹

Although the location of the courthouse was more central and the appearance more pleasing than the rustic precedent, as early as 1919 newspaper accounts reported that the old building no longer met the growing county's needs and called for a new courthouse. The courtrooms were described as wholly inadequate to meet the demands of the three district courts, old and shabby, with uncomfortable jury rooms. Other departments were overcrowded, and the state was interested in cancelling the ground lease and buying the improvements for their own use. In fact, the state asked the county to assess the value of the improvements in anticipation of this, which were appraised at \$150,000.²

*Travis County Courthouse,
viewed from 10th and
Guadalupe, about 1932.
Image: Austin History Center,
Austin Public Library,
PICA 04670.*



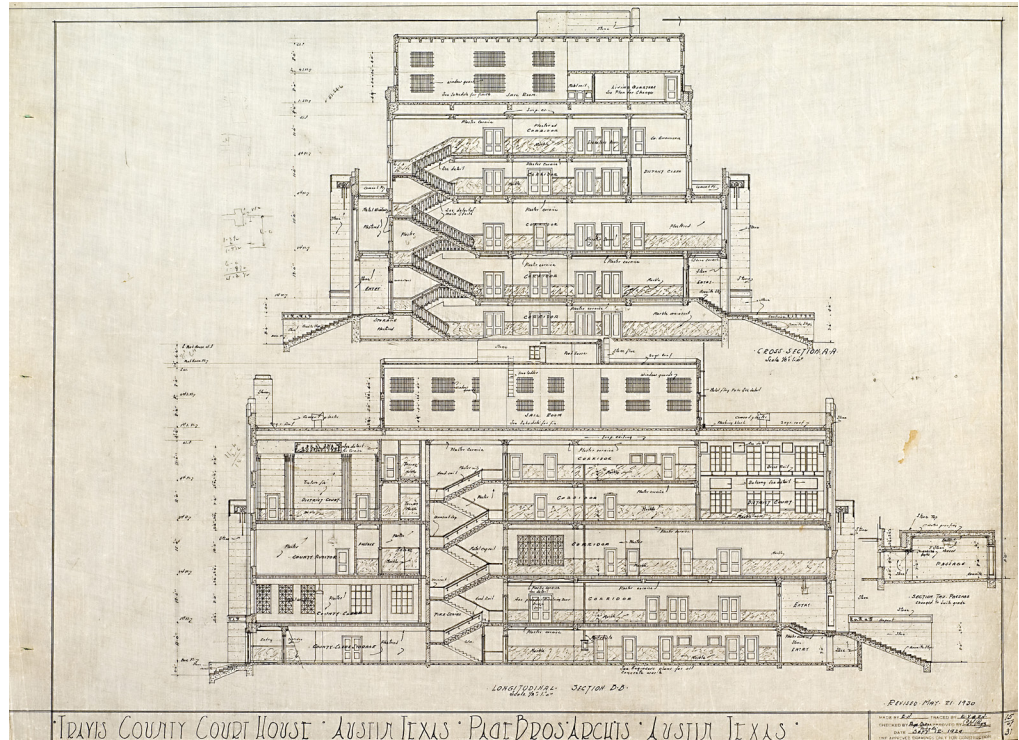
1931 Courthouse

A decade later, the notion of a new county courthouse finally began to gel. In April 1929 the County Commissioners resolved to offer the state the old courthouse site and buildings for \$40,000, reserving the right to dismantle the jail fixtures, to be surrendered by January 1, 1931. The Commissioners pressed forward with the new courthouse in July, hiring Page Brothers Architects to design the building and prepare the plans and specifications for construction. They also called for the formation of an advisory committee of interested county organizations and citizens to advise the Court. Among the issues to be considered was the site selection for the courthouse -- either the old Courthouse and Jail site at 4th and Guadalupe, which the county owned outright, or the current Block 123 site at 11th and Congress, which was still under lease from the state for the next 45 years. In August, the Court hired the legal firm of Hart, Patterson and Hart to advise them on the project.³

The minutes do not record any meetings or interaction with any Advisory Court House Committee. However, a month after calling for the formation of the advisory committee, the Court itself resolved that the new courthouse and jail would be built on the Block 123 site, by unanimous motion. They also set October 8, 1929, as the bid date for the new courthouse and placed ads notifying construction contractors of this. Obviously intent on proceeding with the project, the Court awarded bids on new steel furniture for the new courthouse.⁴

The voters, though, had other ideas. About a week before the Commissioners were set to open bids for the construction of the new courthouse, the Court was presented

Building section drawings from
the original architectural plans.
Travis County Court House,
Page Brothers Architects, sheet
15 of 31, revised May 21,
1930. Austin History Center,
Austin Public Library.



with a petition signed by over 100 county taxpayers. The petition was delivered by Representative Eugene V. Giles, from northern Travis County, and W. C. Bowman, a Manor farmer, who indicated there were more petitions to follow. The petitioners objected to the construction of a new building on state-owned land and to the issuance of warrants without a public election. Representative Owen Pope had recently stated his intention to introduce a bill in January to cancel the county's lease on the site, having failed to pass a similar bill during the previous legislative session in 1928. Governor Dan Moody had stated his support for the bill, and expressed concern that a large courthouse on this site would obstruct the view of the Capitol. Judge George Matthews vowed to present the petitions to the full Court in a meeting set a few days before the bid opening.⁵

The Contractor

Apparently undeterred, on October 5, 1929, the Commissioners approved the plans and specifications for the new courthouse and jail on the state-owned Block 123 site, at 11th and Congress.¹¹ On October 8, they received bids for the construction work from general contractors and jail equipment, heating, plumbing and wiring subcontractors. The construction bid from H. E. Wattinger, of Austin, was found to be the lowest and best bid and was accepted by the Court, as was the jail equipment bid of the Southern Prison Company, of San Antonio. The bids for plumbing, heating and wiring were deemed excessively high and were rejected, to be rebid a few months later.¹²

However, the contracts reviewed by the Court the following week allude to the possibility that the courthouse site might change in two different passages, as follows:

....contractor hereby agrees to furnish all labor, materials, tools and appliances and

*Travis County Courthouse,
viewed from 11th and
Guadalupe, about 1932.
Image: Austin History Center,
Austin Public Library,
PICA 04670.*

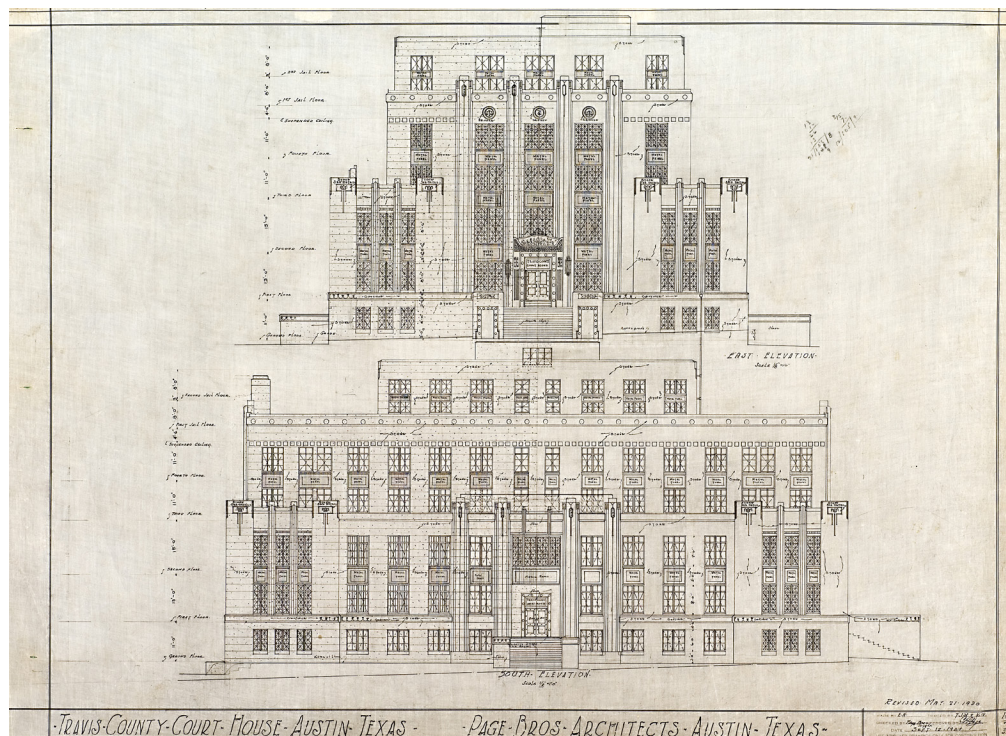


construct, erect and complete for owner a new courthouse building including a jail (hereinafter designated as “improvements”) on the North one-half of Block 123 of the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, or on such other place within the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas as shall be provided by owner without expense to contractor....It is further agreed that said improvements are to be completed ready for delivery on or before 310 working days after February 1, 1930, provided owner shall deliver to contractor by said date the site upon which said building is to be constructed, and if said site be not so delivered by said date, then within 310 working days from the date of the delivery of said site to contractor...⁷

Perhaps in another nod to the concerns expressed in the citizen petition, the construction contract also deleted one passenger elevator, saving \$8,500, all the decorating, saving \$5,000 and a portion of the hardware allowance, saving \$3,000. Having addressed the major concerns raised by the public, the Commissioners authorized the issuance of warrants, and levy of taxes to pay them at maturity, in the amount of \$522,749 for the general construction work.⁸

H. E. Wattinger learned the construction business from his father, Jacob Wattinger, a Swiss stonemason who started a construction company in Austin in 1886. The elder Wattinger worked in Central Texas and built the Women’s Building (now the Drama Building) at the University of Texas in 1903 and the Education Building at Southwest Texas State University in 1919. His two sons, J. J. (John) and H. E. (Henry), joined the business and later formed Wattinger Brothers Construction and completed buildings on the Texas A&M University campus in the 1920s. After the completion of the Travis County Courthouse, H. E. Wattinger would build the Austin Public Library (now the Austin History Center) on the opposite side of Wooldridge Square. The

*Exterior elevation drawings
from the original architectural
plans. Travis County Court
House, Page Brothers Architects,
sheet 16 of 31, revised May 21,
1930. Austin History Center,
Austin Public Library.*



Wattinger brothers also created a separate mechanical and plumbing subcontracting company in 1929. The Wattinger Group remains in operation today as a consortium of construction businesses, including VRW Construction, Wattinger Company, Inc., Wattinger Management Company and Wattinger Service Company, Inc., and has completed scores of projects in the Central Texas area.⁹

Bids on the heating, wiring and plumbing work were received on December 30, 1929, from seven subcontractors, and an award for a combined contract for all of this work was made to Fox-Schmidt Company. The firm had offered a discounted price for all three contracts, which was the lowest overall bid of those submitted. (John Wattinger, the brother of courthouse general contractor H. E. Wattinger, submitted the low bid for the plumbing work, alone.)¹⁰

The Architect

The new courthouse and jail building was designed by Page Brothers Architects, a firm established in 1898 by Charles H. Page and his brother Louis C. Page. The brothers were born in St. Louis and learned the building arts from their father, Charles Henry Page, a mason and contractor who brought his family to Austin in 1886 when he came to work on the construction of the new State Capitol building. The younger Charles trained as an architect in the office of Burt McDonald, an Austin architect-builder who had built the 1876 Travis County Courthouse. Charles first practiced with a partner named Makin, then on his own, and in 1898 his brother Louis joined the firm.¹¹

The firm's early work included the Texas State Pavilion (1904) at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, Mood Hall (1908) at Southwestern University in Georgetown and railroad depots in Teague (1907) and Quanah (1909). In Austin,



Aerial view of the courthouse, taken about 1936 from the Capitol dome. At the time of construction, the courthouse was a prominent building on the skyline near Wooldridge Square. Photo courtesy Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas.

the firm designed notable buildings, including the Littlefield Building (1910, 1915) and the Austin National Bank (1930, razed 1956). The firm also completed municipal buildings, schools and courthouses across the state in a range of architectural styles and materials. The firm had extensive county courthouse experience across the state, and before 1915 had completed the Ft. Bend, Hays and Williamson County Courthouses in the Beaux-Arts style and the Smith and Anderson County Courthouses in the Renaissance Revival style. Shortly before they began the Travis County Courthouse project, in 1929 the firm designed the Hunt County Courthouse, a uniquely styled building with both Classical and Art Deco style elements.¹²

In the years following the end of World War I, stylistic expression in architecture shifted from classical and eclectic revival forms to more modernistic forms, showing the influence of modern European buildings. The Exposition des Arts Decoratifs et Industriels Modernes, a design exposition held in Paris in 1925, was the source of the common terms used to describe the new style -- Art Deco or Moderne. The style is characterized by the use of simple ornament, often carved fluting or reeding of stone elements and low-relief carved or applied panels of geometric and stylized floral designs. Building mass and decorative elements were used to emphasize an overall vertical composition, with setbacks and telescoping forms arranged to draw the eye upwards. For courthouses, the setback massing allowed for accommodation of larger floor plate areas, as counties and county governments grew, and for the incorporation of an integrated jail function on the smaller upper levels.

Having dabbled in the new style on their most recent courthouse commission, the Page Brothers designed a robust Art Deco style building for the new Travis County Courthouse. The building steps back above the third level to a smaller vertical block and steps back again above the fifth level to much smaller two-level jail form. Stone pilasters with sawtooth flutes, placed at the entries on each side of the building and on the lower corner blocks, emphasize the verticality of the stacked masses. The low corner blocks are further strengthened by flat corner piers with carved low-relief stone panels and chamfers at the tops. Carved low-relief stone frieze bands emphasize the base and top of the stepped blocks, and applied decorative metal panels and geometric tracery screens embellish the window spandrels and sash. Building entries are provided on each of the four sides, with the east entry given prominence by a low-relief carved stone pediment and an incised stone building identification panel above the door. The knee walls flanking the entry stair are wider and taller than those at the other entry stairs, and contain passageways to the lower level of the building.

After completing the work on the original Travis County Courthouse, the firm continued to design public buildings in the Art Deco style and served as style consultant to architects Townes, Lightfoot & Funk on the Art Deco Potter County Courthouse, completed in 1932 in Amarillo. In Austin, they designed the United States Courthouse in 1932 and in Orange, after the firm was re-organized as C. H. Page & Son, the Orange County Courthouse in 1937. But, the Travis County Courthouse remains their best work in this style.¹³

Once the bids were awarded to Wattinger and the Southern Prison Company, the Court authorized the final contract with Page Brothers Architects for the plans,

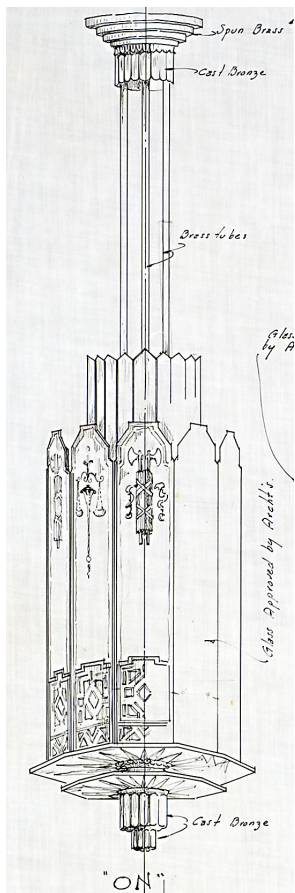
*Travis County Courthouse view,
looking southwest from 11th
and Guadalupe, about 1936.
At the time of construction, the
courthouse had sweeping views
to the west. Image courtesy Texas
Department of Transportation,
Austin, Texas.*



specifications and architectural supervision of the construction work at a fee of \$28,000, to be paid in interest bearing warrants issued by the county. As the construction start time approached, the Court accepted a bid alternate on the exterior stone for the building. The original specifications called for the use of variegated gray Indiana Limestone, with an alternate for Cedar Park limestone, which Wattinger bid at a deduct of \$3,000. A newspaper article of January 12, 1930, noted that Travis County stone would be used in building the new courthouse, “wherever it is located”. Henry Wattinger contracted for the cream limestone with Texas Quarries, established in Cedar Park in 1929. The quarry had recently been awarded the commission for the stone used at the Littlefield Fountain on the University of Texas campus, and added more saws and equipment to complete the courthouse stone fabrication.¹⁴

The Site

Having settled on the architect, building design and contractors, the Court then turned to the selection and acquisition of a site for the new courthouse. On January 11, 1930, the Court rescinded and withdrew its previous offer to surrender the Block 123 site and sell the improvements thereon to the state. At the end of January, the Texas Legislature held a public hearing on the issue of the cancellation of the lease, convened by the joint committee charged with reporting on this issue, chaired by Representative Eugene V. Giles. Shortly after the hearing, a bill to cancel the courthouse lease on state land was introduced in the Texas Legislature, offering three possible compensation options to the county -- a block of state-owned land between 4th and 5th Streets, east of Congress Avenue (likely the Brush Square site), a block of state-owned land between 4th and 5th Streets, west of Congress Avenue (likely the Republic Square site) or a cash amount of \$40,000. In March, a second bill was introduced, adding the Old Courthouse Square at 4th and Guadalupe to the list of sites



A pendant light fixture design for use in the two district courtrooms. Travis County Court House, Page Brothers Architects, sheet 14 of 15 (excerpt), October 21, 1930. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

offered as compensation options; the ability of the state to issue title to the two public squares was questioned, and the third possible site was added to ensure title could be transferred. Judge Matthews indicated that the county preferred either of the two sites on the west side of Congress Avenue, and would select Republic Square if title could be granted to it, and the Old Courthouse Square at 4th and Guadalupe, if not.¹⁵

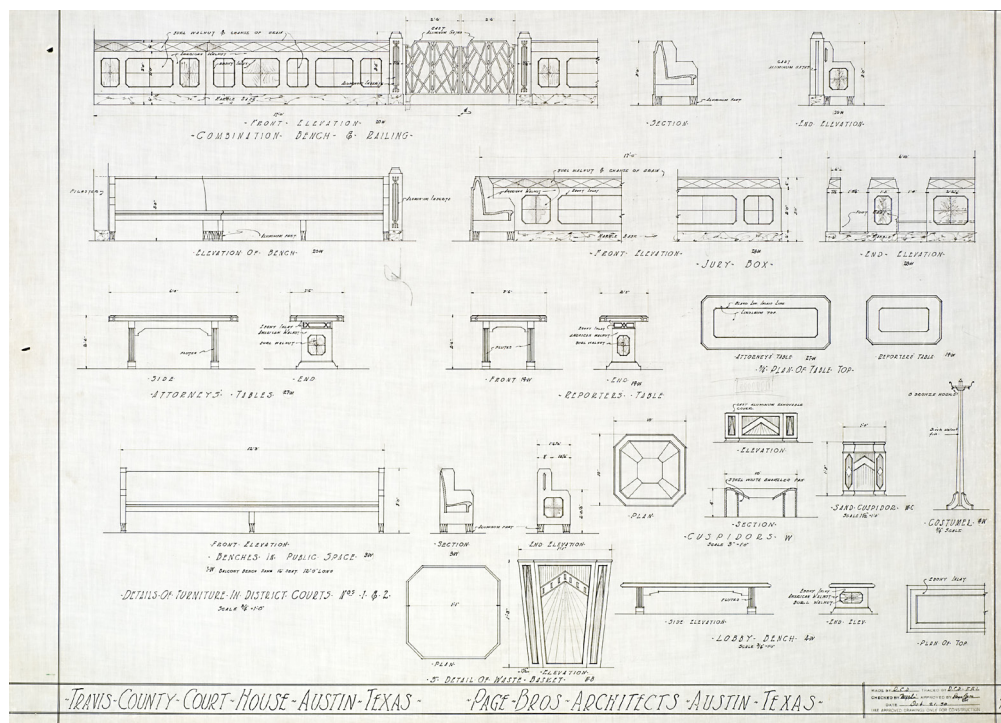
On March 27, 1930, the Court opened 12 proposals for a new courthouse site, received in response to advertisements placed in two Austin newspapers. The proposals ranged in price from \$30,000 to \$240,000; in location from 17th Street (north of downtown proper, at that time) to South Congress Avenue (south of the Colorado River); and in size from a quarter block to an entire block. The sites were also noted in careful detail in an *Austin American* newspaper article of the following day, which described and tabulated the taxable value of each site, listing the owners of the properties and their agents. The Court quickly focused on the Block 127 site at Guadalupe, San Antonio, 10th and 11th Streets, offered by J. B. Riley for \$115,300. Riley represented a handful of landowners on the block, including Zachary Scott, C. H. Harper, India and David Harrell, Emma Davis, John Pope and the Byrdson Lumber Company. On April 14, 1930, the Court approved a contract with the landowners for the sale of Block 127.¹⁶

The minutes do not record the evaluation process used by the Court in selecting Block 127 as the site for the new courthouse. It was likely based on a combination of price, desirable location and size. Most of the proposals were for partial blocks, and the fact that the entirety of Block 127 was offered was appealing. The site also overlooked Wooldridge Square, and the new courthouse would be a handsome addition to the new public library already located on the south side of the Square. (The wood framed library was built in 1926 and replaced by the current stone library building in 1933. The building now houses the Austin History Center branch of the Austin Public Library system.)

Perhaps the Court considered the recommendations made in *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, prepared in 1928 by Koch & Fowler Engineers, of Dallas. The plan recommended the creation of groupings, or districts, of government buildings. Regarding state government buildings, it recommended that the Capitol remain the primary architectural feature downtown, and that state office buildings be grouped behind it, between the Capitol grounds and 15th Street, and San Jacinto and Lavaca Streets. The plan made specific reference to the new county courthouse and recommended that it be included in a future municipal civic center for Austin, to include buildings for both county and city government, located at the end of Congress Avenue on the north bank of the Colorado, between the river and 3rd Street, and Colorado and Brazos Streets. Although the authors of the plan noted that the public library was well located on Wooldridge Square, they advised that this area was inappropriate for a municipal auditorium under discussion in the city, due to the limited parking and steep grades, issues the county would later struggle with.¹⁷

At the end of June, the Court adopted a resolution to accept the Old Courthouse Block as payment from the state for the courthouse and jail improvements at 11th and Congress, reserving the right to remove the jail equipment from the old building for installation in the new building. They moved to sell the Old Courthouse Block,

Custom-designed furniture and furnishings were made for the district, county and commissioners courtrooms, as shown on this sheet of furniture drawings from the original architectural plans. Travis County Court House, Page Brothers Architects, sheet 7 of 15, October 21, 1930. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

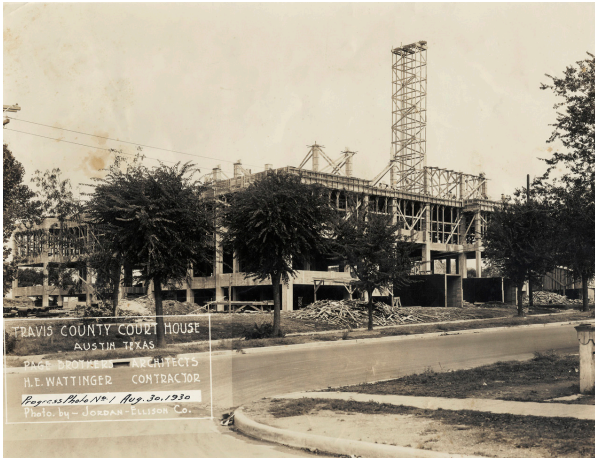


as well as another county owned property, the south half of Block 109 fronting on 9th between Lavaca and Colorado Streets, and use the proceeds to offset the warrants issued for the purchase of the new courthouse site on Block 127. The Court appointed Commissioner T. H. Davis to make the sale. From later references in the minutes, the county elected to sell only the Block 109 property, and continued to lease the Old Courthouse Block for the next few decades.¹⁹

Construction of the Building

Having acquired a suitable site, preparations were made for construction activity on the site. Although the Court intended to use the building design and construction documents prepared in the fall of 1929 for the old Block 123 site on Congress Avenue, revisions were required to conform to the new site on Block 127. Page Brothers Architects were authorized "to change the ground plans for new Court House to conform to new grade lines" on April 28, 1930. More site details were worked out a month later, when the city allowed the capping of an existing sanitary sewer line that ran through the alley. The county granted an easement to the city for the maintenance of an existing electrical conduit, also in the alley, and agreed to lower the depth of the conduit in the course of constructing the new courthouse. Other changes in the design were apparently also ordered, as there are later references in the minutes to various changes, and many of the drawing sheets were re-issued under revision dates of May 21, May 25 and June 3, 1930. Construction was finally underway, and on June 7, 1930, the Court approved the first application for payment from general contractor H. E. Wattinger in the amount of \$14,277.60 for site clearing and excavation and stored materials for the concrete foundation.¹⁸

At the beginning of September, change orders for modifications to the contracts with H. E. Wattinger and Fox-Schmidt were approved. The new work included both



Construction progress photo, August 30, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO51512.



Construction progress photo, ca. September, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO51514.



Construction progress photo, October 23, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO51513.



Construction progress photo, November 21, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5149b.



Construction progress photo, December 23, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5151.



Construction progress photo, ca. January 1931. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5145.

changes required to coordinate to field conditions and revisions requested by the county. Wattinger was authorized to add an elevator, a revolving door in the north entry corridor, change copper spandrel panels to aluminum and make various changes to doors, stonework, terrazzo floors, marble wainscoting, plaster work, granite entry steps and rock excavation. The allowance for additional decoration, initially deleted when the contract was executed, was returned to the project. To offset the added costs, credits were given for eliminating UL labelling and extra windows, dirt excavation, concrete work and the change from Indiana limestone to Cedar Park limestone. The total amount of the change order was \$51,264, to be paid with additional interest bearing warrants.³⁴ Fox-Schmidt was authorized to extend water and gas mains from 11th Street to the building, bring electrical and telephone conduits to the building, extend underground downspouts to the new curb lines, increase the irrigation system, install an oil burner system and storage tank, add three toilets in the jury dormitories and eliminate a sump pump in the boiler room, for an added cost of \$5,000.²⁰

Also in September, the Court considered the matter of the cornerstone for the building, and determined the appropriate text to be carved in the grey granite stone. Later in the month, they directed Page Brothers Architects to prepare plans and specifications for new steel furniture and office equipment for the new courthouse, accounting for all existing furniture that might be re-used in the new building. The Court received bids for the hardware to be installed in the building, and awarded the contract to the Walter Tips Company, in the amount of \$4,300, having accepted a deductive alternate offered by the bidder.²¹

In October, the Court hired J. L. Gubbels, of Gubbels Landscape Architects, to prepare landscape plans for the courthouse grounds and direct the installation of the plantings. Mr. Wattinger advised the Court that the construction work had proceeded to the point that the old home of Zachary Scott, on the southwest corner of the block, was impeding progress on the site grading work, and needed to be removed from the site. Shortly after paying the first application for payment to the Southern Prison Company, the jail subcontractor, the Court issued a change order in the amount of \$5,250 to the firm. The original contract called for the re-use of the existing jail bars and equipment, still in use housing prisoners in the old jail at the 11th and Congress site. Since the contract was executed, it was determined that the expense and trouble of transporting and maintaining prisoners in other counties, while the existing jail was dismantled and installed in the new courthouse, was too great, so the Southern Prison Company was authorized to install new material throughout the first jail floor of the new courthouse.²²

On October 20, 1930, the cornerstone was installed at the northeast corner of the building. The ceremony was conducted by the members of Austin Lodge No. 12 of the Masons. In a proclamation read in to the minutes on November 10, the Court noted its appreciation to the Masons for their "assistance in dedicating one of Texas' finest courthouses."²³

In November, the Court received bids for the courthouse furniture, the light fixtures and wood blinds. They awarded a contract to Swann-Schulle Furniture Company for the steel and wood furniture throughout the courthouse, in the amount of \$52,051.

The cornerstone was laid in a ceremony on October 20, 1930. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5160.



They awarded a contract to John. L. Martin for the light fixtures, in the amount of \$11,912.15, and to John. H. Tobin for the wood blinds, in the amount of \$3,498.⁴³ They also surrendered possession of the north half of Block 123, the location of the 1874 courthouse and jail buildings, to the State of Texas, and entered into a no-charge lease agreement with the State for the property until September 10, 1931, with a monthly rental rate of \$250 after that date, if the County had not yet vacated the old courthouse. (The County had previously accepted the Old Courthouse Block as payment for the county improvements to Block 123. The State had leased the Old Courthouse Block, and had already collected rents through September 10, 1931, which were applied to the County's obligation on Block 123.)²⁴

In December, H. E. Wattinger submitted a proposal for the landscape and site improvement work, which included the installation of stone faced landscape walls, concrete sidewalks and curb and gutter, asphalt pavement, topsoil and turf grass, and about 350 shrubs of various kinds, in accord with the plans prepared by Mr. Gubbels, the landscape architect, in the amount of \$20,257. A contract for the installation was executed a few days later. However, under the direction of the newly elected County Judge and Commissioners Court, a new landscape plan prepared by County Engineer J. G. Morgan was approved by the Court, at a savings of \$7,000. Neither the drawings nor an itemized proposal were discovered for the Morgan landscape design, but judging by the 30% savings, it can be assumed that the scheme was much simplified from that of Mr. Gubbels.²⁵

At the end of 1930 the entire Commissioners Court and the County Judge were

Construction is nearing completion, with the installation of the irrigation system and paving of 10th Street ongoing at the time of this photograph, dated June 18, 1931. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5163b.



replaced by new elected officials. Although the Court had resolved the issue of the courthouse site, and avoided the construction of a new building on leased land that the state had already indicated they intended to reclaim, the voters were angered by the fact that the Court issued warrants to finance the cost of the new courthouse project. W. E. Williamson, Commissioner for Precinct 3, did not run for re-election. But, Judge George S. Matthews and Commissioners Jim C. Giles, J. L. Robbins and James Sassman were all defeated at the polls in the summer of 1930. The Court was now led by Judge Roy C. Archer and Commissioners Arnold P. Chote, Warren S. Freund, Thomas A. Beckett and John T. Parker.²⁶

As the old Court neared the end of its term in office, it tended to business, processing pay applications from the architect, general contractor and subcontractors for all costs incurred to date, including additional service and extra items.²⁷ From the pay applications and the construction progress photographs, the structural frame was completed, the exterior stone veneer installation was about 80% complete and window sash were being installed at the lower levels of the building.

Although the new Court may have been mindful of cost cutting opportunities, as with the simplification of the landscaping, they also authorized a few functional changes to the building. They directed that the door to the District Clerk's office be changed from a single door to a double door, and also added a door between the County Judge's office and the adjacent office. They directed that Southwestern Telephone Company install a direct telephone system in the new courthouse. They approved the addition of two ornamental iron gates at the ground floor entrance on the east side of the building.

View of the Commissioners Courtroom, looking west. The commissioners' offices are to the right. The photo was taken just prior to the grand opening in June 1931. The light fixtures are not yet installed, but the decorated acoustical tiles at the ceiling and the decorative painted dado wainscot are.
 Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5168b.



They added two doors in the District Attorney's suite on the third floor, to allow passage from room to room.²⁸

By the time of the March 1931 pay applications, the building was dried in and installation of interior finishes was ongoing, including terrazzo and tile flooring, interior plaster walls and ceilings and acoustical treatments. Painting work was also beginning, and on March 16 the Court reviewed details, sketches and costs for the decorating work to be done on the interior of the building. An allowance of \$5,000 had been previously approved for this work, and the cost submitted was \$4,600, almost 5% below the budgeted amount, which the Court quickly approved.²⁹

Although the architectural plans do not identify any spaces intended for use as concession areas in the building, it was something that was perhaps suggested as the construction work was underway. In response, the Court took the unusual step of passing an order disapproving the granting of any concessions (presumably to vendors) in the courthouse building, noting that it would "be unfair to the merchants near the Courthouse and would mar the beauty and appearance of the building." The issue persisted, and the Court passed a second order to this effect in 1935.³⁰

In May, as the construction work neared completion, the Court addressed the final furnishings issues for the new building. They approved the purchase of 195 chairs for the third district courtroom, intended for use by a future district court not yet created, from the Bickley Brothers, of Houston. They added the installation of a 5,000 gallon fuel oil tank in the boiler room, and a wire guard rail on the stairway to the County Clerk storage vault on the ground floor. They directed H. E. Wattinger to refinish and

View of the Tax Collector office, looking east. The photo was taken just prior to the grand opening in June 1931. The light fixtures are not yet installed, but the decorated acoustical tiles at the ceiling and the ceiling fans are. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5167b.



repair all furniture now in use at the old courthouse and other county offices, in preparation for use in the new courthouse. Finally, as they paid the final pay application to the Southern Prison Company for the jail equipment, they ordered 100 mattresses and covers for use in the new jail, to be delivered not later than June 22, 1931. This was the date set by the Court for the first use of the new courthouse. As the other contractors completed their work, the Court approved the final pay applications to H. E. Wattinger, Fox-Schmidt and Page Brothers Architects.³¹

Occupancy and Grand Opening

As moving day approached, local newspapers published articles about the big event. Several weeks before the opening, a brief article announced that the moving would begin on Saturday, June 20, and that the offices would be open for business on Monday, June 22. A formal opening ceremony was planned for Saturday, June 27, 1931. The article noted that all the county officers and departments would be moved to the new building, from the courts, judges and commissioners to the county health department, school superintendent and farm agent. A flurry of articles appeared as the construction work was formally accepted by the Court and a dispute over accrued interest on the warrants was resolved in favor of the county. Moves from the old 1876 courthouse and rented office space at 10th and Congress were described. (The county would save \$275 month in rent, which it had incurred for overflow office and county probation office space.) The papers also reported that the work on the new building was complete, except for the installation of light fixtures and an irrigation system for the grounds. All the new furniture was in place, and would be used in combination with the old wooden furniture that had been refinished.³²

View of one of the District Courtrooms on the third floor, taken from the spectator balcony. The photo was taken just prior to the grand opening in June 1931. The light fixtures have not yet been installed, but the furniture and decorative painting are. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5173b.

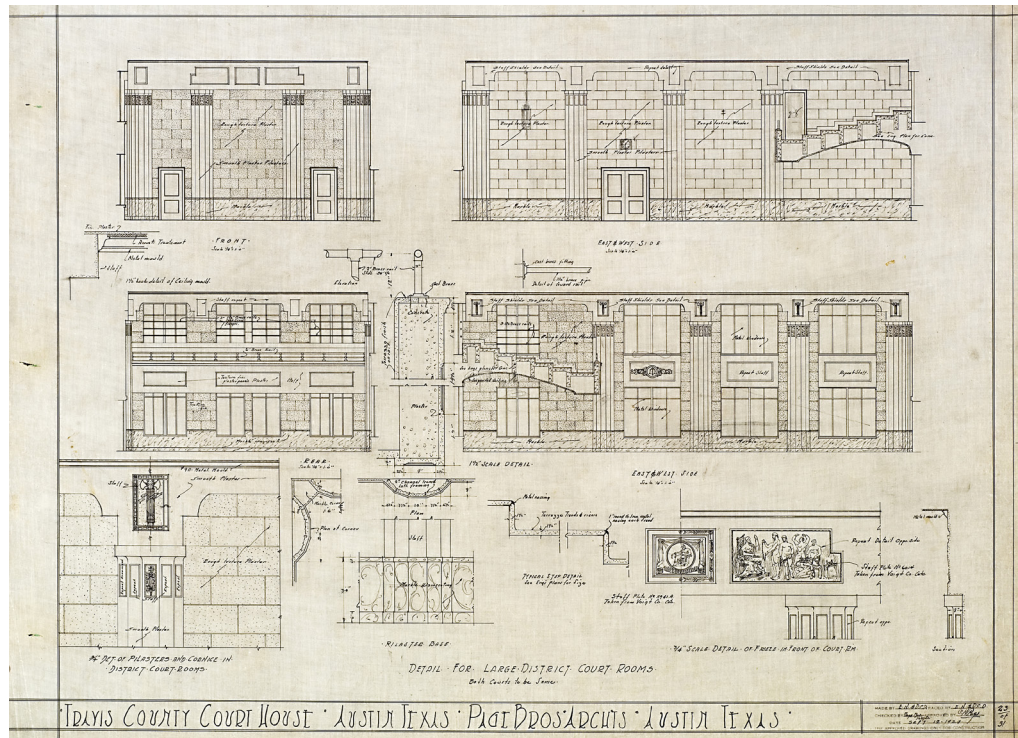


On Saturday, June 20, 1931, the Court ordered that as of Monday, June 22, the new courthouse on Block 127 be designated as the “legal residence” of Travis County for the transaction of legal matters and the location of all sessions of the county courts. The county tax collector was the first office in the new courthouse, opened for business on Saturday afternoon, recording a number of automobile registrations. The tax assessor, sheriff, county attorney, county clerk and district clerk opened for business on Monday morning, as per the schedule. Judge J. D. Moore, of the 98th District Court, tried the first case in the district courtroom on the east side of the new building, granting a divorce to Felicitas Rosales from Alfonso Rosales. To commemorate the opening of the courthouse, Judge Moore added these comments to the record:

This being the first case tried in the new courthouse, the court desires to extend a wish that all officials may enjoy the atmosphere and that the surroundings may enable them to fill their respective duties to their own and the satisfaction of the good citizens of this county.³³

The first deeds, complaints and suits filed at the new courthouse were all reported in the local newspapers, as was the novelty and beauty of the new building. A delegation from the Jefferson County Commissioners Court, where construction of a new courthouse was ongoing, were taken on a tour of the new building by Commissioner Avery. The papers reported on the new keying system, which allowed building occupants to use a single key to open the building and their respective offices, but no other offices. Telephones were installed throughout the building. Prisoners were still being held in

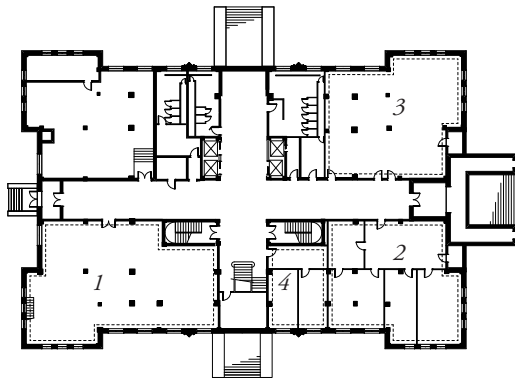
The two district courtrooms were outfitted with spectator balconies and more seating space below, as shown in the original architectural plans. Travis County Court House, Page Brothers Architects, sheet 23 of 31, September 12, 1929. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



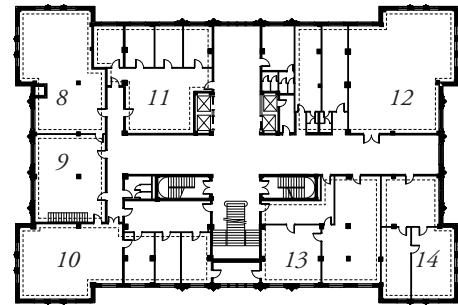
the old jail until July 1, to allow for the grand opening and public tours of the new jail set for June 27.³⁴

One newspaper article also noted a feature of the new courthouse, which was the provision of segregated witness rooms and toilet rooms for white and black visitors to the building. The jail was also outfitted with separate cell blocks for white and black prisoners, both male and female. Legally mandated racial segregation through the provision of “separate but equal” facilities was common in southern states, and Texas was no exception. In 1889, Texas was the fourth state to enact laws requiring separate railroad cars and facilities for black and white travelers, and public schools in the state were segregated under a law of 1905. In Austin, a 1906 ordinance required that street cars have separate compartments for white and black riders, and in 1928 the city adopted a new planning document, *A City Plan for Austin, Texas*, that recommended as the “solution of the race segregation problem” creation of a special district in East Austin intended for the black residents of the city, with separate schools, parks and other facilities for black citizens.³⁵ Although these Jim Crow laws had been in place for decades, they would be called in to question in this very building in a generation’s time.

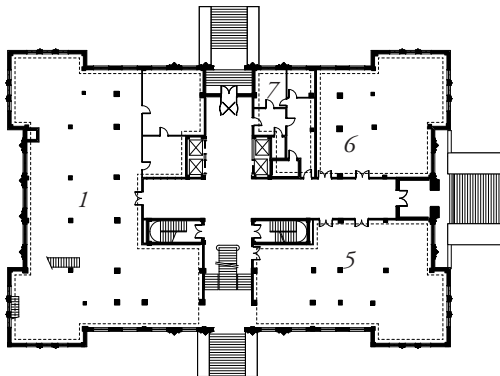
The grand opening ceremony on Saturday, June 27, 1931, was an understated event, with a flag raising by the drum and bugle corps of American Legion Post 76 in the morning, followed by a day-long open house and public visitation. The former county judge, George Matthews, and the four former county commissioners were invited to attend, at the personal request of the current county judge and commissioners, to greet the public and show them the new courthouse and jail. Electricians worked to install the light fixtures before the event, but did not quite finish the task. All of the



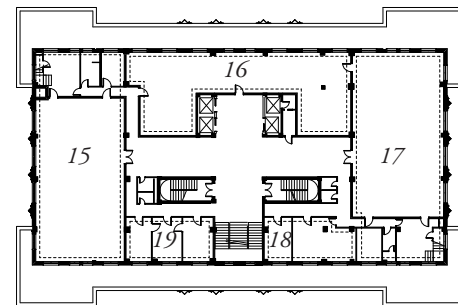
Ground Floor



Second Floor



First Floor

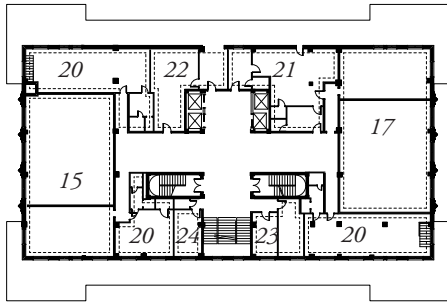


Third Floor

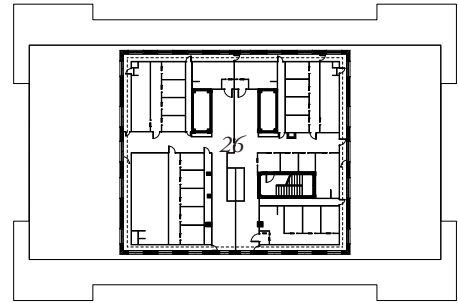
THE COURTHOUSE IN 1931

The Courthouse was built to house all the branches of county government, in approximately 93,000 square feet of space on seven floors. The ground floor had precinct and minor county department offices, and the first floor had administrative county offices. The county court functions, including the commissioners court, and the county auditor, probate clerk, school superintendent and county

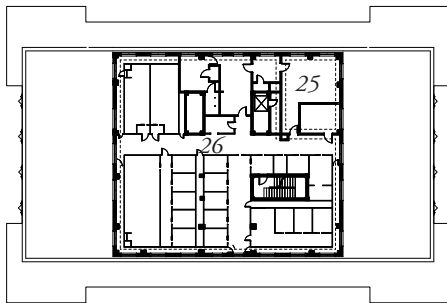
health officer suites, were on the second floor. There was also a future district courtroom on this floor. On the third floor were the two district courtrooms, district attorney, district judges and the district clerk. The district court balconies, jury dormitories, grand jury room and various small offices and support spaces were on the fourth floor. The jail was on the two uppermost levels.



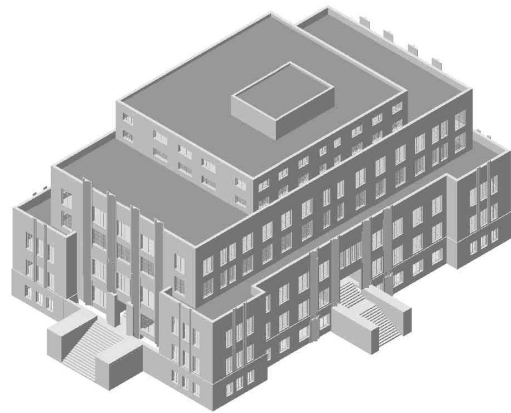
Fourth Floor



Sixth Floor



Fifth Floor



Axonometric View

LEGEND

1 County Clerk	10 County Court, Judge, Attorney	19 District Judges
2 Justice of the Peace	11 Commissioners Court	20 Jury Dormitory
3 Ext. Agent/Farm Demonstrator	12 Future District Court (126th)	21 Grand Jury
4 Probation Officer	13 County School Superintendent	22 County Engineer, Surveyor
5 Tax Collector	14 County Health Office	23 Court Reporter
6 Tax Assessor	15 District Court (53rd)	24 Press
7 Sheriff	16 District Clerk	25 Jailer
8 Auditor	17 District Court (98th)	26 Jail
9 Probate Clerk	18 District Attorney	

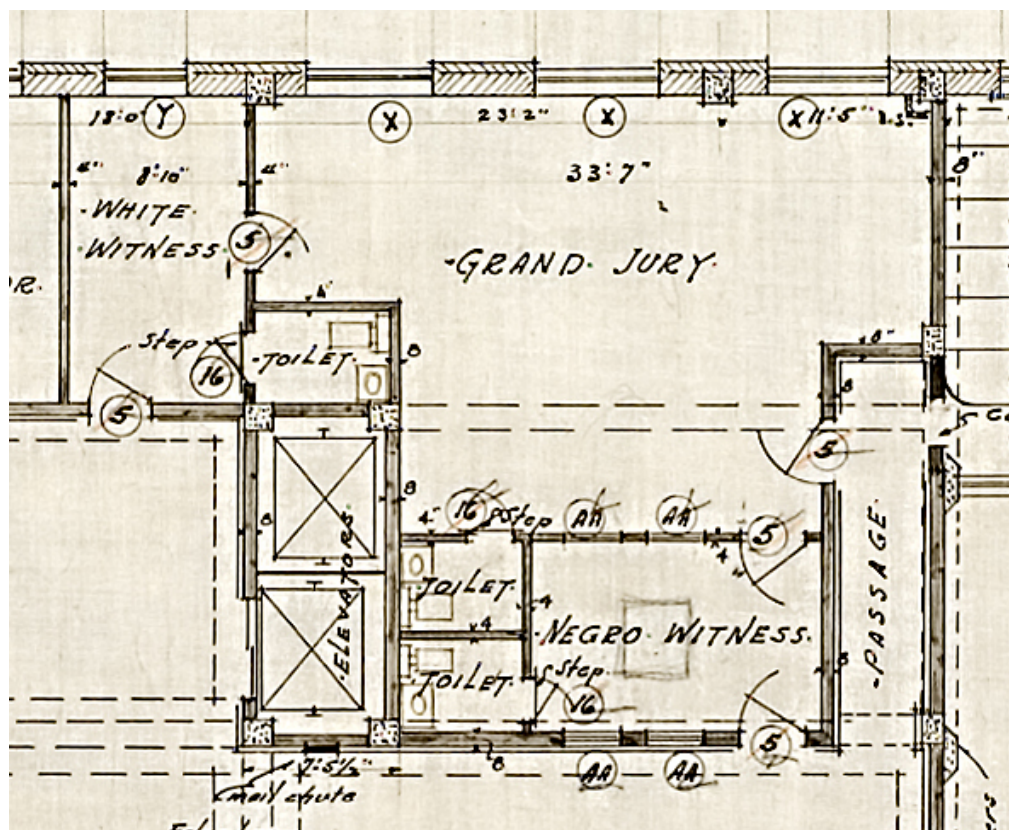
View of the County Clerk office, looking west. The stair on the left leads up one level to the Probate Clerk office. The photo was taken just prior to the grand opening in June 1931. The light fixtures are not yet installed, but the decorated acoustical tiles at the ceiling and the ceiling fans are. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5168b.



county staff had occupied the building before the open house, except for the two home demonstration agents, whose furniture was still being refinished. Many curious citizens had already visited the building during the week and had taken a tour of the deluxe new jail. The offices were decorated with congratulatory flowers, with an especially large arrangement from Page Brothers Architects in Judge Archer's office, and two radios were brought in to provide music in the tax assessor and district clerk offices. A steady stream of visitors filled the building all day, and may also have visited the new Bell Ice Cream Company and the E. E. Sandwich Shop, located across Guadalupe from the courthouse, which were also celebrating their grand opening.³⁶

The new building was designed to house all the county departments and staff, in approximately 93,000 square feet of space on seven floors. (The original plans called the lowest floor the "ground floor", and the floors above the first through sixth floors.) The original building was a simple cruciform plan, with entries from each of the four sides. Although the plan was axially symmetrical, there was no central rotunda and the monumental stair was located asymmetrically, in the south hall. The monumental stair was flanked by two enclosed fire stairs, tucked in to the south corners of the center crossing of the main corridors, and the elevator banks were located on the north corners of the crossing. The ground (now first) floor housed precinct and minor county department offices. There was a secured hall to access the separate elevator cab to the jail. On the first (now second) floor were administrative county offices, including the tax assessor, tax collector offices, the County Clerk and the sheriff office suites. On the second (now third) floor were the county court and associated staff, including

The original courthouse was outfitted with segregated toilets and witness rooms for black and white visitors to the building, and separate cell blocks for black and white prisoners. Travis County Court House, Page Brothers Architects, sheet 13 of 31 (excerpt), revised May 21, 1930. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



the commissioners, and the county auditor, probate clerk offices, school superintendent and county health officer suites. There was also a future district courtroom and witness rooms on this floor. On the third (now fourth) floor were the two district courtrooms and associated judge, attorney, district clerk, witness and jury rooms. On the fourth (now fifth) floor were the district court balconies, three jury dormitories, a grand jury room and various small offices and support spaces. The first jail floor (now called the sixth floor) had the jailer's office and quarters, a central kitchen and laundry room, jail cells for women and children and the separate elevator cab landing. The second jail floor (now called the seventh floor) had the jail cells for men. The plaster walls and ceilings were finished with decorative textures, molding and finishes in major spaces, like the corridors and courtrooms. Applied acoustical tiles, with a decorative painted finish, were installed in the courtroom and office spaces. The main corridors had ceramic tile flooring, with a decorative terrazzo medallion on the first (now second) floor, and the courtrooms had rubber tile flooring. Terrazzo flooring was installed in most other rooms.³⁷

After the public grand opening, the prisoners were transported from the old jail to the new building and on July 6, 1931, the county abandoned the old 1876 courthouse, which reverted to the state. The state continued to use the old building for another three decades, and eventually demolished the old building in 1964. The county refunded all outstanding courthouse and jail warrants in to bonds, relieving the financial burden of the project as much as possible. The remaining landscaping work and light fixture installations were completed after the initial occupancy, and the final pay

View of the County Courtroom, looking west. The photo was taken just prior to the grand opening in June 1931. This is one of the few spaces photographed with the lighting in place. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, CO5166.



applications paid to H. E. Wattinger and John L. Martin.³⁸

The Early Years of Use

The new building served the needs of the county very well in the early years, although there was an apparent shortage of toilet facilities for women provided at the outset. In the first few days after occupancy, a sink and toilet were installed in a portion of the County Clerk's private office to create a ladies rest room on this floor. Most of the office suites had a private toilet in close proximity, but that had not been provided for the County Clerk suite, and the closest ladies rest room was on the next floor up.³⁹

A more significant change was made in August 1931, when the Legislature created the 126th Judicial District Court in Travis County. This change added new staff and operations to the building, and the room designed as a "future district court" on the second (now third) floor was put in to use. The Court had purchased 195 chairs for use in this room in the spring of 1931, and perhaps made do with other old pieces of furniture from the county holdings. After a few years, though, a more formal furniture arrangement was needed for the courtroom, and in May of 1937 the Court received bids for installing railings, desks, doors and furniture in the 126th District Courtroom, according to plans and specifications prepared by C. H. Page.⁴⁰

In the first decade of use, as the anniversary of the opening of the new courthouse came, glowing articles were printed in the local newspapers congratulating the citizens of the county on their wise investment in the handsome facility. The courthouse site, atop a high ridge on the west side of downtown, gave sweeping views of the hills and river that "never fail to delight visitors." The building continued to accommodate all of

The first jury to be sequestered in the new courthouse, on July 3, 1931. View of the south Jury Dormitory room, looking west. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, PICA 25841.

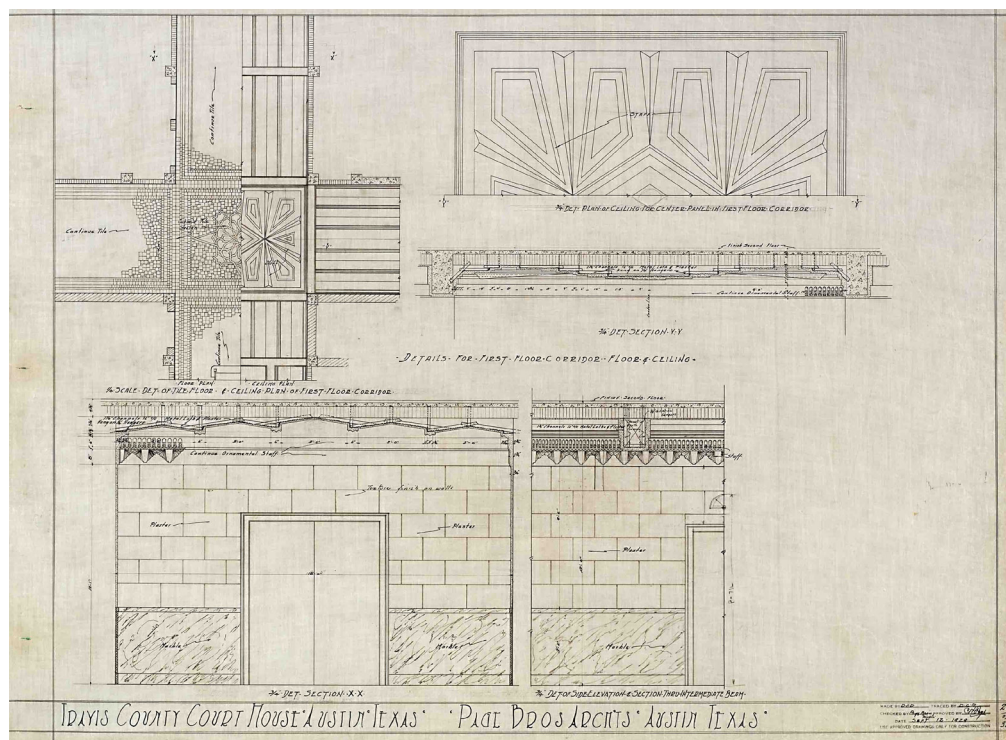


the departments of county government in the early years, although some smaller offices moved to different locations in the building, as larger departments grew a bit.⁴¹

As the Depression deepened, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) was given office space in the building and took over the small jury dormitory on the fourth (now fifth) floor for a time. The Court authorized a CWA project in the building itself, to paint two murals at the entrance to the County Clerk office, in the main corridor. Only minor repairs and revisions were made in these years, because the building was new and in good repair and because funds were closely controlled. A bit of rubber floor tile was installed in the County Courtroom, two added phones were installed in the County Clerk office and small repairs were made to the jail doors and locks. Bids were received for painting the interior of the jail, but a contract was not awarded, likely due to cost concerns. After affirming its previous decision to prohibit concession stands in the building, the Court voted to allow a dining concession, operated by a blind person and coordinated through the State Commission for the Blind, in the building in 1936, although the location of this facility is not recorded in the minutes.⁴²

Near the end of the decade, newspaper accounts of crowded dockets in the district courts were published in a series of articles about Travis County officials and offices. The article described the schedule challenges faced by the judges, attorneys and clients, but also noted that creating new district courts had been discouraged in the state in recent years. The author suggested that one of the existing courts be given the specialization of handling domestic relations and criminal cases, to free up the remaining district courts for civil matters, but it would be several decades before this actually occurred.⁴³

The main corridors were finished with elaborate plaster moldings and textures, marble wainscot and ceramic tile floors, as shown on the original architectural plans. Travis County Court House, Page Brothers Architects, sheet 24 of 31, September 12, 1929. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



Through the 1940s, maintenance work was done at the building, as it began to age. In 1946, extensive repairs were made throughout the building to address leaks at windows, doors and roof parapets, flashings and surfaces. In the areas where the building stepped back, leaks at the roof-to-wall joint had damaged the interior plaster and repairs at walls and ceilings were made on the third and fifth floors, including a damaged area in the 53rd District Courtroom on the west side of the building. In 1947, 10,000 square feet of applied acoustical ceiling tile, with handsome decorative patterns, was replaced with 12" by 12" plain acoustical tiles, decorated with only a beveled edge. Parking was apparently becoming an issue, as the Court petitioned the City to establish one-hour parking on the west side of Guadalupe, "to provide parking space for the general public who have business in the Courthouse."⁴⁴

Sweatt v. Painter

By far the most important event at the courthouse in this decade was the suit brought by Heman Marion Sweatt against the University of Texas (UT). Sweatt, a black man, was denied admission to the UT School of Law in 1946 solely on the basis of his race, under state constitutional requirements for separate public schools for blacks and whites. Sweatt, a thirty-three year old graduate of Wiley College, was a letter carrier in Houston, and had recently been denied a promotion to a postal clerk position for which he was qualified, based on his race. In the course of working against employment discrimination in the post office he became interested in the law, and decided to go to law school. Sweatt was supported in his admission application by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), in contemplation of a legal challenge of the lack of "separate but equal" educational opportunities at the graduate and professional levels for blacks in Texas.⁴⁵

Heman M. Sweatt, second from the right, during the lawsuit against the University of Texas, heard in the 126th District Courtroom on the third floor of the Travis County Courthouse. Also shown are several attorneys who were involved with the case: Harry Bellinger, W. J. Durham and C. B. Bunkley, left to right. Image: Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, Craft (Juanita Jewel Shanks) Collection: "Heman Sweatt trial," di_04795.



A NAACP delegation accompanied him as he filed his application on February 26, 1946, which was received by UT president Theophilus S. Painter. Painter advised that Sweatt pursue a scholarship to an out-of-state college for his law degree, which was the method enacted by the state legislature in 1939 to provide black students access to graduate and professional education, while still maintaining the segregated educational facilities also mandated by state law. The NAACP delegates objected and pressed for the creation of a graduate and professional school for blacks in an urban Texas city. Painter held the application and sought a ruling from the attorney general, who upheld the segregation policy, found it applicable in institutions of higher education as well as public schools, and found that UT may refuse admission to Sweatt, so long as the state provided an equal, educational opportunity at another institution in Texas. Where this might be was not entirely clear, since there was not an actual, functioning law school for blacks in Texas, although Prairie View University and an as yet undeveloped, unfunded university for blacks defined in the state constitution were contenders. Painter denied Sweatt's application to the UT law school in March.⁴⁶

The suit was filed on May 16, 1946, and the hearing was held in the 126th District Courtroom on the third floor of the courthouse. Judge Roy C. Archer was the presiding judge, and the case went through a series of hearings and appeals over the course of the next few years. Initially, Judge Archer continued the suit for six months to allow the state more time to establish an equal law school for black students. Even though there was no law school established in that time, Judge Archer denied the suit on the

Thurgood Marshall, left, during the lawsuit against the University of Texas, heard in the 126th District Courtroom on the third floor of the Travis County Courthouse. Also shown are Crawford B. Bunkley, Jr., William J. Durham and Judge Roy C. Archer, left to right. Image: Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, The University of Texas at Austin, Craft (Juanita Jewel Shanks) Collection: "Thurgood Marshall and others," di_05060.



basis of a resolution passed to provide law studies at Prairie View University. The denial was appealed by Sweatt, and the Court of Civil Appeals sent the case back to the 126th District Court because of changes in state law since the suit was initially filed.⁴⁷

The 50th Legislature appropriated funding for the new state university for blacks, to be called Texas State University for Negroes (now called Texas Southern University) and included funds for a law school. In March 1947 a temporary law school was opened in the basement of a building on East 13th Street in Austin, acting as the law school of the Texas State University for Negroes. The school had access to the state law library, but did not have a library of its own, and had three part-time faculty members and a part-time dean and registrar from the UT law school. There were no enrollees, with any interested students likely awaiting the resolution of the ongoing lawsuit, although Sweatt was given a personal announcement of the opening of the school.⁴⁸

As the case had evolved, the NAACP determined that the appropriate strategy was an attack on the very notion of "separate but equal" and segregation itself, and not just on the failure to provide equal facilities of higher education in the state. The NAACP attorneys, who included Thurgood Marshall of New York and William Durham of Dallas, used this strategy in the five day hearing in the 126th District Court, held in May 1947. The hearing was closely followed by news publications, both regional and national, and was well-attended, with many UT students and supporters of Sweatt in the courtroom. The state, represented by Attorney General Price Daniel, argued that the temporary, basement law school was equal or substantially equivalent to the UT

Architect's rendering of the first expansion and remodeling of the Travis County Courthouse, prepared by C. H. Page & Son. Austin American, November 11, 1956.



law school. The NAACP attorneys elicited admissions from the state's witnesses that there were inequalities. They also presented expert testimony of educators and anthropologists who stated that blacks and whites have the same ability to learn, when given the same opportunity to do so.⁴⁹

Consistent with his previous decisions, Judge Archer ruled in favor of the state, and Sweatt and the NAACP appealed the ruling, carrying the case to the Supreme Court. In 1950, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in *Sweatt v. Painter* that the separate, basement law school was not equal to UT and ordered that Sweatt be admitted to the UT law school. Sweatt enrolled in the UT law school that fall and attended classes for two years. He later earned a master's degree from the Atlanta University Graduate School of Social Work and worked with the NAACP, the Urban League and taught at Atlanta University. He died in 1982. The NAACP continued to fight for racial equality, mounting other challenges to segregation in higher education in Texas, including those of Herman Barnett, a medical school candidate, and W. Astor Kirk, a doctoral candidate in political science. The groundbreaking *Sweatt v. Painter* case led to the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* case, which finally struck down segregated "separate but equal" educational facilities throughout the country.⁵⁰

1958 Expansion and Improvements

The minutes of the Commissioners Court show that minor maintenance work continued at the courthouse through the early 1950s, including roofing repairs, interior painting, furniture refinishing and door repairs. But the bigger issue in this decade began in 1955, as the Court considered the possibility of enlarging, air conditioning and remodeling the courthouse. To assist in this effort, the Court had engaged the services of C. H. Page & Son, Architects & Engineers, the successor firm to Page Brothers Architects, who had designed the 1931 courthouse project. Louis Page, the younger of the two Page Brothers, passed away in 1934, and after his death C. H. Page's son, Charles Henry Page, Jr., joined the firm. C. H. Jr. received his architecture degree from the University of Texas in 1932, and was made a partner of the firm in

The completed expansion of the Travis County Courthouse, circa 1959. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, PICA 25400.



1936, and the name of the firm was changed to C. H. Page & Son.⁵¹

In early September 1955, the Court heard the first findings from C. H. Page & Son on the proposed project. As initially envisioned, the project included two story additions to the north and south sides and remodeling throughout the interior of the existing building. The project was to address a number of issues, including the addition of a jury waiting room, courtroom space for an anticipated fourth district court and an air conditioning system for the five levels of the courthouse proper. (Recent juries complained of an inability to sleep in the jury dormitories, due to clouds of mosquitoes and extreme heat in the dormitories.) A preliminary estimated cost of \$982,000 was presented, to be financed by a forthcoming bond issue. The Court studied the impact of the bond debt closely, in an effort to avoid a tax increase. At the end of 1955, the Court voted in support of proceeding with the bond election, because the required tax increase would be a small increase for a short duration.⁵²

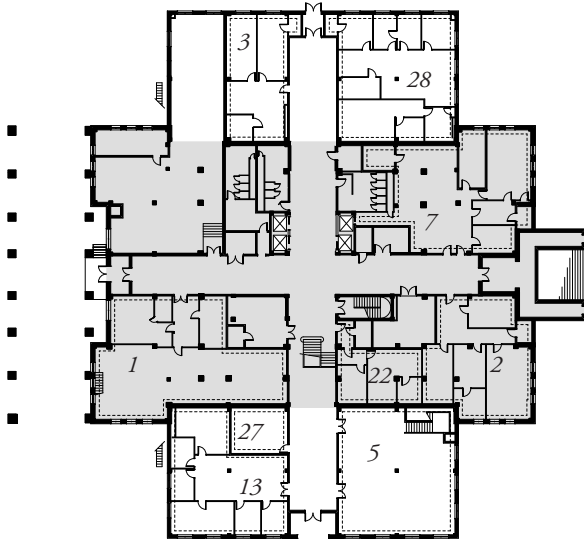
As the bond election date approached, newspaper articles provided information and comment on the proposed expansion, intended primarily to provide added space for the County Clerk, Tax Assessor and Tax Collector offices. The lack of air conditioning and the discomfort of building visitors and employees was also cited as a big problem to be solved in the renovation work. Several articles noted that no additional parking would be provided, since no new land would be purchased and available land area was limited on the courthouse site. As the design was further developed, the north and south additions had been increased to three stories, from the two stories initially studied. The Court held a public hearing at the end of September, about six weeks before

the bond election, to inform the interested public about the expansion and renovation project. The election for a \$1,500,000 bond issue was held on November 13, 1956, and passed with overwhelming support, although the overall voter turnout was lower than expected.⁵³

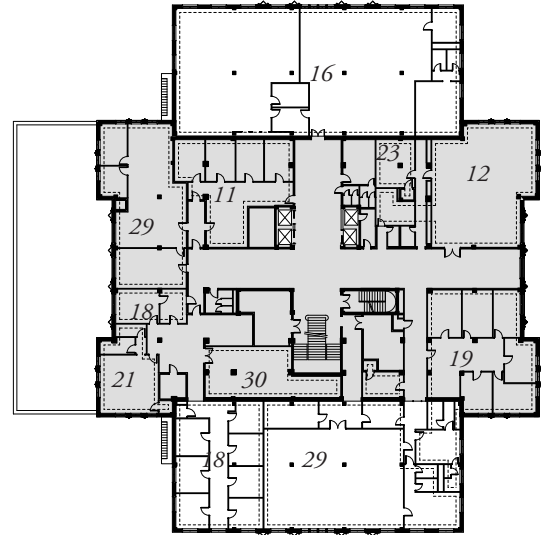
Although County Judge Tom Johnson hoped to start construction on the renovation and expansion project immediately, it took the better part of a year to sell the bonds, due in part to a fixed interest rate threshold stipulated in the bond election. As the bond sales proceeded, the Legislature passed a bill to add a fourth district court in Travis County, the first in over a quarter century. The 147th District Court was created effective as of September 1, 1957. Meanwhile, C. H. Page & Sons continued with the preparation of the construction documents for the project. In November 1957, the Court authorized last minute changes to the plans, adopting recommendations from a committee of the Travis County Bar Association. The changes provided space for five district courts, and added a small courtroom for non-jury trials. The configuration of the county court-at-law and the probate courtrooms was changed to enlarge the jury boxes to seat 12 jurors, instead of six, to allow for dual court uses. It is possible that the west addition, expanding the County Clerk office, was also added at this time, as it is not mentioned in any of the descriptions of the project, but is included in the final construction plans.⁵⁴

The plans and specifications for the renovations and additions project were issued to bidders at the beginning of 1958, and bids were received on February 25, 1958. C. H. Page & Sons reviewed the bids and recommended the award of separate contracts to a general contractor and five subcontractors, in the total amount of \$1,218,008. The general contractor was Archie C. Fitzgerald, at a bid price of \$697,300. The Court accepted Page's recommendations and made arrangements to move the courts and county offices to the Steck Building, 207 W. 9th Street, to be used as the temporary courthouse location during the course of the renovations. Work began in early April, as the occupants were still packing up for the move to temporary quarters. The work proceeded with little incident, and the construction was completed in about a year. Ever mindful of their budget, the Court arranged to sell the temporary partitions installed in the Steck Building to the highest bidder for \$452.63.⁵⁵

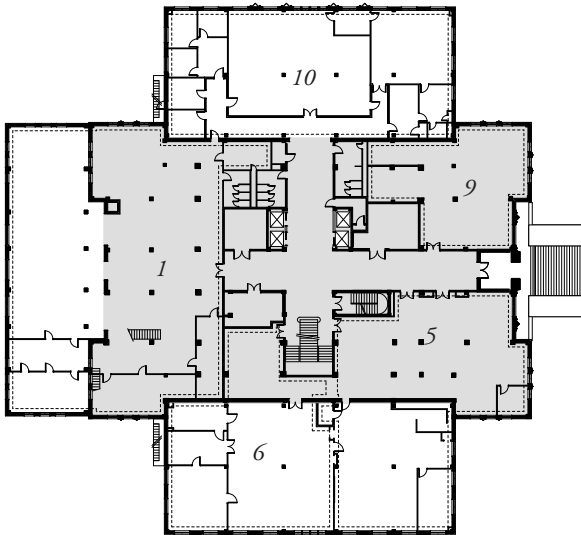
The project transformed the original building in a number of significant ways. First, the exterior appearance of the original Art Deco style building was changed proportionally, and the once compact, telescoping vertical form became sprawling and heavy at the base with the three-story additions to the north and south faces of the building. The effect was minimized by the use of matching stone, windows and decorative details. On the interior, the north and south additions changed the pattern of natural light and exterior views on the lower three floors of the building, and the central north-south corridor no longer extended to the exterior walls. In the two original district courtrooms, the sloping spectator balconies were removed, replaced with infill floors flush with the fifth floor plane, and the back third of the two-story courtrooms were walled off. Although original plaster ceilings and ornament were retained in the central corridor spaces, many ceilings were lowered to conceal the new ductwork installed with the air conditioning system. Finally, the original decorative tile floors in the central corridors on the second, third and fourth floors were replaced with



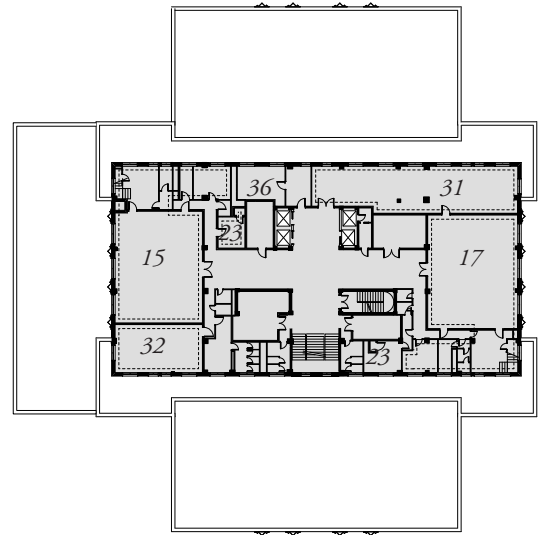
First Floor



Third Floor



Second Floor

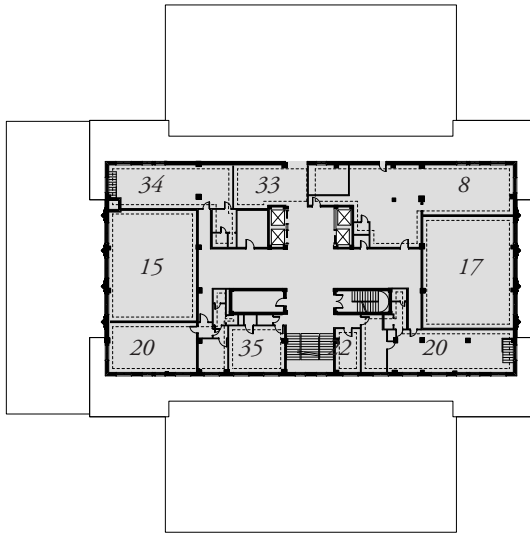


Fourth Floor

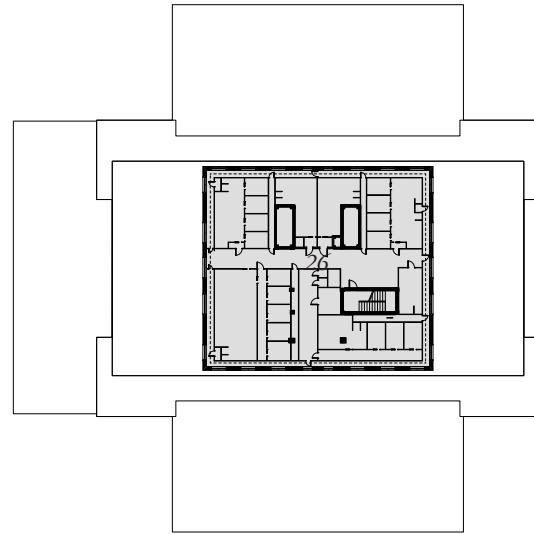
THE COURTHOUSE IN 1958

Substantial additions were made to the building, to the first three floors of the north and south sides of the building. A two level addition was also made to the west side, with a porte cochere and an expansion of the County Clerk office. The goal of the project was to provide additional space for the County Clerk, Tax Assessor and Tax Collector functions. Three additional courtrooms were also added at this time.

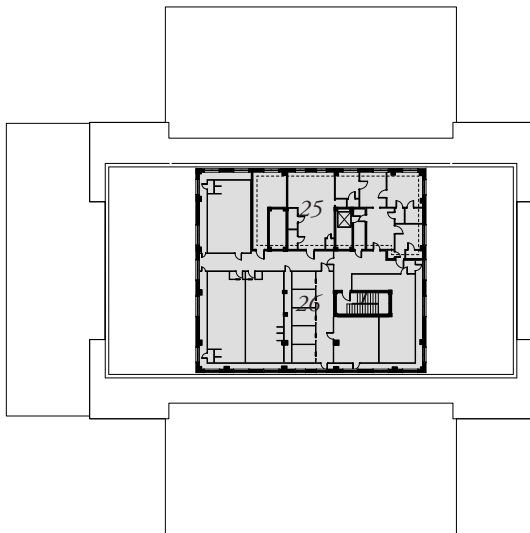
The main body of the courthouse was air conditioned, and fans were installed to cool the jail levels. Metal fire stairs were added to the north and south wings, to provide additional egress. (The interior area of the 1931 Courthouse is shown shaded in the diagrams above.)



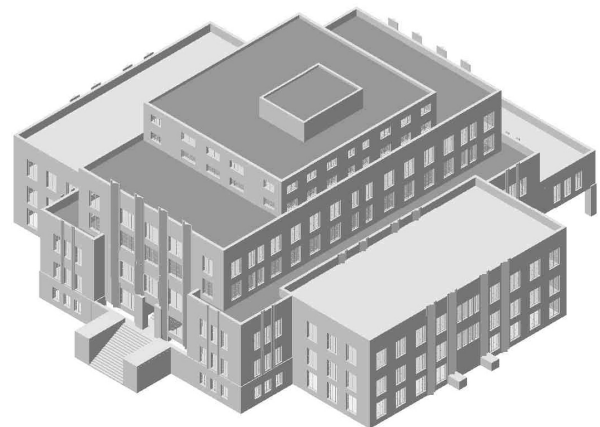
Fifth Floor



Seventh Floor



Sixth Floor



Axonometric View

LEGEND

1 County Clerk	11 Commissioners Court	21 Grand Jury	31 Waiting
2 Justice of the Peace	12 District Court (126th)	22 County Engineer, Surveyor	32 Court Room
3 Ext. Agent/Farm Demonstrator	13 County School Superintendent	23 Court Reporter	33 County Treasurer
5 Tax Collector	15 District Court (53rd)	25 Jailer	34 ASC Office
6 Tax Assessor	16 District Clerk	26 Jail	35 FHA Office
7 Sheriff	17 District Court (98th)	27 Concession	36 Office
8 Auditor	18 District Attorney	28 Dom. Rel., Welfare	
9 Probate Clerk	19 District Judges	29 District Court	
10 County Court, Judge, Attorney	20 Jury Dormitory	30 Library	

The second expansion of the Travis County Courthouse, photographed in 1965. Photo courtesy Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas.



new terrazzo flooring, although the decorative terrazzo medallion at the second floor corridor crossing was retained.⁵⁶

1962/1964 Expansion and Improvements

The last addition to the courthouse was made in 1962, and very little documentation beyond the construction drawings and a few references in the minutes of the Commissioners Court have been found for this project. It appears that the project was undertaken primarily to expand and improve the original jail, by then a small, old-fashioned facility due for an upgrade. In the spring of 1961, an election for a \$650,000 bond issue was passed, and the Court again turned to C. H. Page & Son as the architect and engineer for the jail improvement project. Bids were taken in the summer of 1962, and construction contract awards were made to general contractor B. L. McGee and seven subcontractors.⁵⁷

This project also transformed the original building in a significant way. Because the original jail was located in a small penthouse form, set at the top of the dominant vertical element of the original Art Deco style building, the options for enlarging the jail were limited to expanding upwards (not very functional or practical) or outwards. The jail expansion was made to the north side of the building, and extended over the north wing addition made in the 1958 renovation and addition project. The form of the 1958 north wing was extruded upwards by four additional floors, which gave an overall building form that was no longer symmetrical about the east-west axis. This was a significant departure from the appearance of the original Art Deco style building, and was based on a more contemporary building form, in accord with the style of the time.⁵⁸

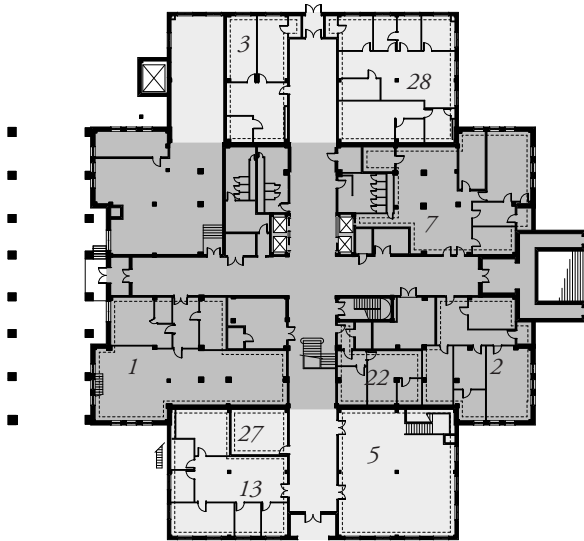
A parking lot was added to the northeast corner of the courthouse grounds in 1964. Photo courtesy Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas.



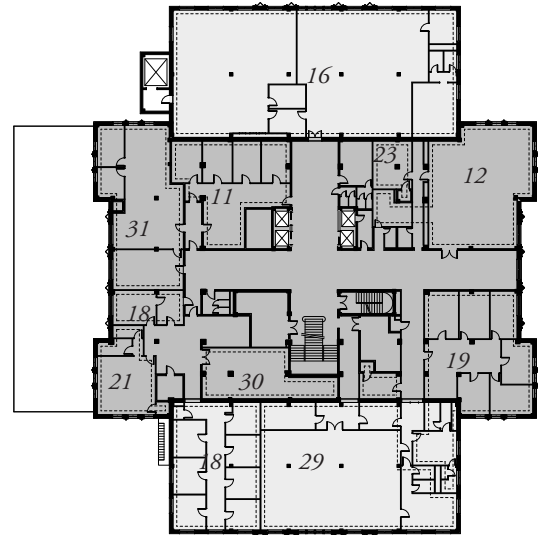
The new addition area at the fourth and fifth floors was designed and built as shell space, without interior partitions or finishes, except for small mechanical equipment and storage rooms at the common wall with the existing building. A new elevator and stair tower was added from grade to the seventh floor jail expansion, on the west side of the addition. In the spring of 1963, C. H. Page & Son was engaged to prepare design and construction documents for the finish out of the fourth and fifth floor shell space and the second floor jail area. The interior finish out was bid and awarded on July 31, 1963, to B. L. McGee and most of the subcontractors who had worked on the 1962 jail addition project. While most of the work was completed before the end of 1964, the final payment was not made to B. L. McGee until the spring of 1965, apparently due to a dispute of some kind. As the final bit of work associated with the jail additions and improvements, the northeast corner of the courthouse site was paved with asphalt, for use as a parking area for sheriff's deputies.⁵⁹

Later Modifications

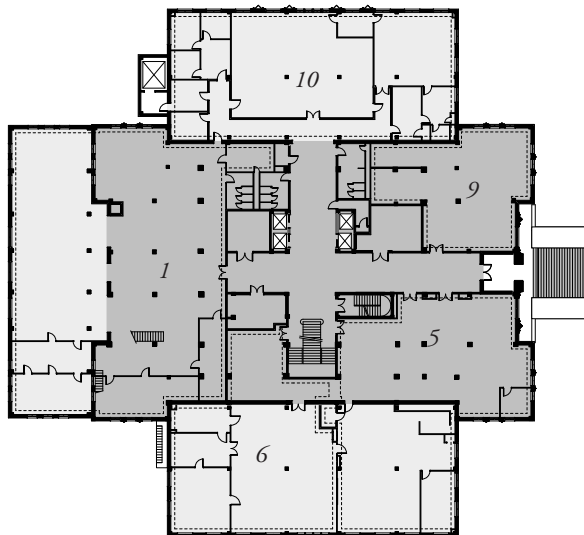
Travis County continued to grow, and the need for additional space for county court and government functions grew as well. Having intensively built out the existing courthouse site on Block 127, the county began to acquire annex buildings and sites to accommodate the new growth. In 1964, the county purchased the southeast corner of Block 128, located west of the courthouse across San Antonio Street, and gradually bought the remaining lots of Block 128. The lot was used for public and employee parking and small buildings for the county print shop and the school superintendent office. In 1972, a countywide bond election was passed, including funding for a courthouse annex on Block 128. The annex, a three story building with an aerial walkway



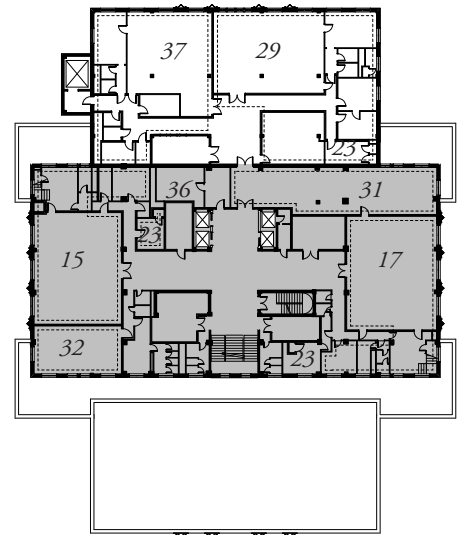
First Floor



Third Floor



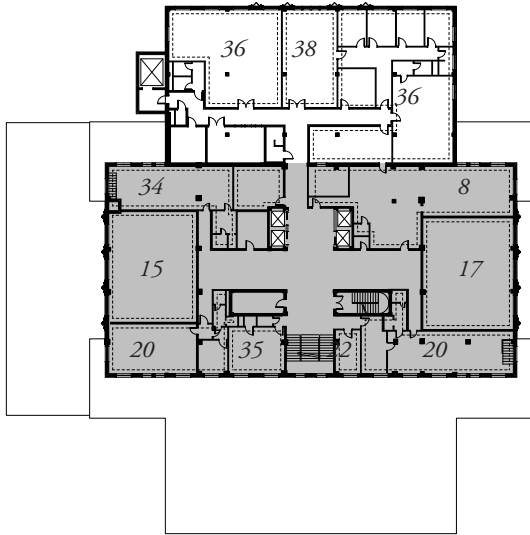
Second Floor



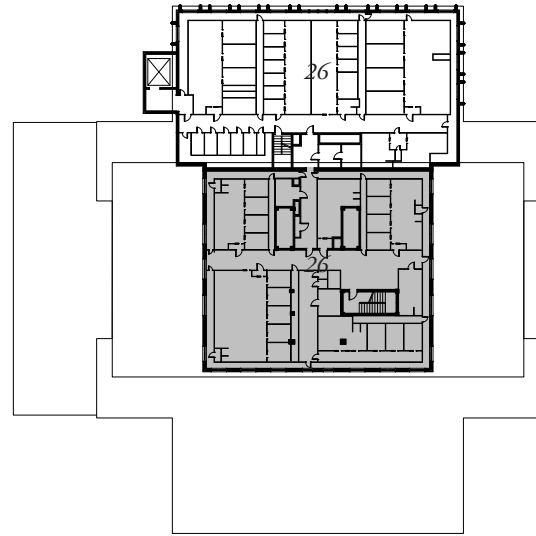
Fourth Floor

THE COURTHOUSE IN 1962/64

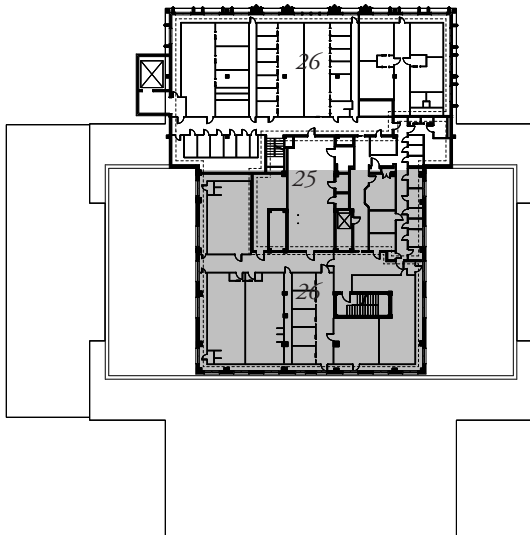
A substantial four-story addition was made to the building, above the existing north wing addition made in 1958. The additions house a jail expansion at the top two floors, and unfinished "shell space" at the fourth and fifth floors. In 1964, the "shell space" was finished out, to add two courtrooms, office and meeting space. An elevator was added to the north wing, and an internal stair from the fifth floor to the jail was also added. (The interior area of the 1931 Courthouse is shown in dark shade and the 1958 Courthouse addition is shown in light shade in the diagrams above.)



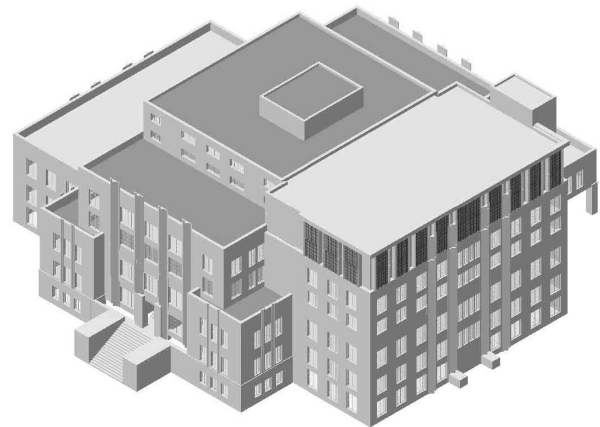
Fifth Floor



Seventh Floor



Sixth Floor



Axonometric View

LEGEND

1 County Clerk	11 Commissioners Court	21 Grand Jury	31 Waiting
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10 County Court, Judge, Attorney	20 Jury Dormitory	30 Library	

The second expansion of the Travis County Courthouse, photographed in 1972. Image: Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, PICA 04677.



connection to the existing courthouse, was completed in 1974. In a related effort, a seven-floor parking garage was built on the north half of Block 107, southwest of the existing courthouse.⁶⁰

The issue of building security became an ever pressing need, beginning with sheriff's recommendation to lock the building on weekends and nights in the spring of 1965, after the Mills County Courthouse vaults were burglarized. Currently, entry to the building is restricted to the east and west ground floor entrances, and there are security stops at each entry with manual screening, metal detection devices and x-ray examination of belongings at each entry.⁶¹

Although significant improvements were made to the jail in 1962, modernization and increased security continued to be an issue in the aging facility. In 1971, an investigation of the conditions in the jail was ongoing, in response to concerns raised by previous grand juries regarding overcrowding and prisoner mistreatment of other prisoners. In 1975, a prisoner sued the county, claiming that he was served a "centipede sandwich". In 1978, the Court authorized renovations to the old jail, including an air conditioning system, new lighting and the addition of 32 new cells, installed in an area previously used by the sheriff's department. Despite these improvements, the old jail was continually in need of upgrade, and in 1986 was finally abandoned when a new jail was opened on the Block 128, at 10th and San Antonio Streets.⁶²

As the population of Travis County continued to grow, there was an increasing need for district and county courts. The Legislature created four new district courts in the 1970s (the 200th, 201st, 250th and 261st District Courts), and four more in the 1980s (the 299th, 331st, 345th and 353rd District Courts). By 1994, there were also seven County Courts at Law, a Family Law Court and a Probate Court. Although

some of the courtrooms were located in the annex, there were 16 courtrooms packed into the historic courthouse, one located in a mezzanine floor inserted in the two-level volume of the historic 53rd District Courtroom on the west side of the building. Two additional district courts were created, the 390th District Court in 1999 and the 403rd District Court in 2000, before the new Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center was completed in 2001. This annex building is devoted to criminal courts and houses seven District Courts, six County Courts at Law and one Drug Court. The historic courthouse is now devoted to the civil courts and houses ten District Courts, three Associate Courts and two County Courts at Law, a Probate Court with Associate Court and the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 5.⁶³

There have also been several significant renovation projects completed at the historic courthouse since the last expansion project. In 1973, the original boilers were replaced with new units, since the old ones lacked safety devices required to pass state inspection. That same year, remodeling of the old courthouse began with work in the Justice of the Peace suite, including the installation of carpeting on the original terrazzo floors. Carpeting has been installed in many of the office and courtroom spaces in the building, since then. In 1975, the exterior of the building was sandblasted, dislodging the insect population of the old building, according to newspaper accounts.⁶⁴

In 1984, the mezzanine was inserted in the original 53rd District Courtroom, on the west side of the building, to allow for the addition of a new courtroom on the added floor. Construction on this project was started without notification to the Texas Historical Commission, as required under Texas Government Code § 442.008. In resolving this oversight, Travis County and the Texas Historical Commission agreed on a plan to completely restore the original 98th District Courtroom, on the east side of the building, although the work could not begin until after the jail was relocated in order to coordinate the routing of ductwork with the historic architectural elements. In 1987, office and meeting room space on the north end of the fifth floor was remodelled for use as two new courtrooms. This change in occupancy required the addition of an exterior fire stair on the northwest corner of the building.⁶⁵

In 1990, a building-wide renovation project was done, primarily to upgrade the life safety, egress and accessibility systems in the building and restore the windows in the old jail space to an operable condition. Many of the windows had become stuck in an open position over time. The project included construction of an enclosure wall at the historic monumental stair shaft on the south side of the building, as well as the addition of a fire sprinkler and smoke detection system. The project also included the partial restoration of the 98th District Courtroom, exclusive of the spectator balcony area and the original lighting, and the use of original paint colors in the courtroom and main corridors. The Texas Historical Commission was a participant in the project and Travis County and the Commission executed a memorandum of agreement regarding both the 1990 renovation project and guidelines for future restoration of the remainder of the 98th District Courtroom. In 1998, an exterior rehabilitation project was done, also with the participation of the Texas Historical Commission. The project addressed moisture infiltration issues in the masonry veneer and the appearance of the stone. Mortar joints were repointed with mortar matching the original, and stone patching was done in damaged areas. Perimeter joints at the window openings and

moving joints at select window heads were sealed with a polyurethane sealant and the limestone veneer was cleaned with a low-pressure, diluted bleach wash. Weather stripping was installed on operable windows and steel doors and windows were repainted.⁶⁶

In conjunction with changes in judicial seniority for the courts located in the building and the opening of the Blackwell-Thurman Criminal Justice Center, the rooms used by the remaining civil courts in the historic courthouse were shifted and re-assigned to different courts. The original 98th District Courtroom on the east side of the building was assigned to the 53rd District Court, and the 98th District Court was relocated to the mezzanine floor courtroom installed on the west side of the fifth floor of the building. The 126th District Court was relocated from the northeast corner of the third floor of the 1931 building, where the Heman Sweatt trial took place, to the old 53rd District Courtroom location, on the west side of the fourth floor.

In 2005, the Travis County Commissioners Court issued a press release regarding the suggestion of Precinct One Commissioner Ron Davis to name the historic courthouse after Heman Marion Sweatt. Under a procedure for the naming of county facilities, previously adopted by the Court, recommendations from the public regarding the naming were sought. At least one alternate suggestion was offered -- George S. Matthews, the county judge who led the Court during the effort to fund, design and build the 1931 courthouse. But the accomplishment of Heman Sweatt went far beyond that of a single building, no matter how enduring it is to the citizens of the county. Mr. Sweatt achieved access and equality for all citizens of Texas, and ultimately the United States. On June 14, 2005, the Commissioners Court approved the official naming of the building as the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse. A rededication ceremony was held on October 21, 2005, and was attended by national dignitaries from the civil rights movement. Vernon Jordan gave the keynote address and members of the family of Heman Sweatt gave the dedication.⁶⁷



Original hardware lockset and metal interior door from the 1931 courthouse construction.

Recommendations for Preservation

Much of the building fabric of the 1931-era courthouse has survived intact. While there have been significant changes to the building, due to the large additions and interior remodeling projects, the building has been in continuous use as the seat of Travis County government. It has architectural, cultural and historical significance, and the continued preservation of the building is of great importance. Future maintenance, repair and change to the building should be carefully considered to ensure that the work is compatible and consistent with the historic character and significance of the building.

Generally, the building appears to be in good physical condition. From the references in the historical record and from a cursory site review, it appears to suffer from the typical physical forces of expansion and contraction of materials, water and air infiltration at fenestration and constant use by an ever growing citizenry.

Exterior Conditions

The exterior limestone is in generally good condition, although the historical records refer to at least one episode of sandblasting, which likely removed some of the detail and crispness of the carving and ornament. It also appears that limited repointing has been done, and some of the edges of the stone blocks were knocked off in that process. Future cleaning efforts should use the gentlest possible cleaning procedures for the limestone surfaces and the type of stain or environmental deposit to be removed. A preliminary testing program to identify the source of the staining or discoloration and observe the effect of the proposed cleaning program is also recommended. To aid in future repointing efforts, a chemical analysis of existing mortar materials should be done to identify the composition of the original mortar and any subsequent replacement mortar materials. Any new mortar installed should be of a mix design that is compatible with the performance of the stone and consistent with the appearance of the original mortar materials. There are wires dropped down the face of the limestone walls in several places, which may be associated with the communications system, which should be routed less conspicuously, if possible.

Both the jail and the main roofs of the courthouse are flat, built-up roofs, set behind parapet walls. The roofing layers have been turned up to wrap the back of the parapets, which are capped with a limestone coping course. The backs of the parapet walls have been flashed with applied metal sheathing panels and cap flashings, and the tops have been sealed with neatly installed membrane roofing. The roof levels do not appear to have a secondary drainage system, as would be required by current code. To address this, a set of secondary roof drains might be installed; the addition of new scuppers and downspouts should be avoided because they would be inappropriate additions to the historic facades. The historical records refer to problems with persistent roof leaks at the third and fifth floors, where the exterior walls of the building step back. If these leaks are active, they should be further investigated in the field and appropriate flashings installed to keep the water out of the building.

The original metal windows, many with decorative grilles, are largely extant in the building, although much of the glazing itself appears to be replacement material. The metal windows are rectangular, with vertical orientation, in a range of sizes and



East elevation, showing stone detailing, metal windows, exterior ornament and the modern parking lot on the grounds.



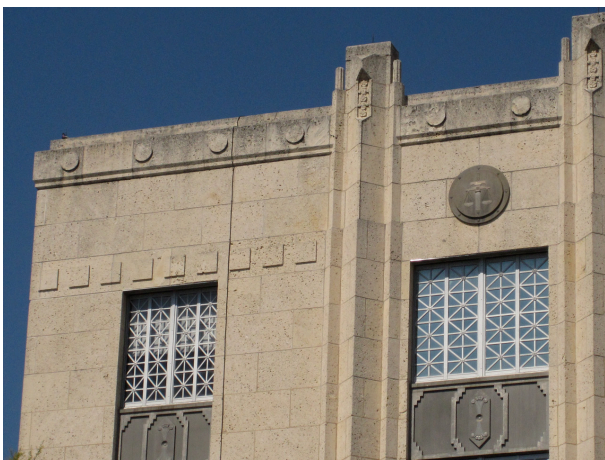
View of built-up roof and parapets of the south wing. The primary roof drain shows on the left side of the image.



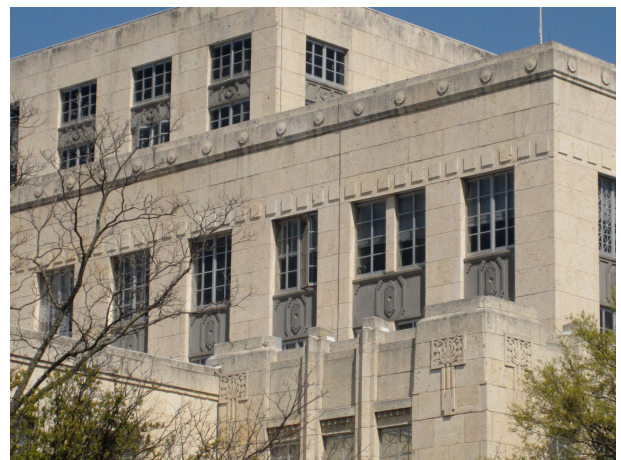
View of stone detailing and window opening on south elevation. A spalled area shows at the mortar joint to the right of the window.



Roosting pigeon and nesting detritus behind the bris de soleil at the north wing.



Exterior ornament at east elevation. A wire is draped over the parapet, and runs down the facade.



Exterior ornament at south elevation. A wire is draped over the parapet, and runs down the facade.

configurations. The operable sections are a distinctive bifold casement style, typically with a fixed transom unit above. The metal windows are quite handsome and are important, character defining features of the building exterior which should be retained and preserved as needed. From a brief field review, it appears that some of the windows have lost hardware and may not be fully secured, a condition which should be corrected with matching replacement hardware. It also appears that many of the windows are glazed with acrylic or plastic materials, in lieu of the original glass. Unless there is some functional or performance requirement for plastic glazing, the windows should be glazed with glass throughout. From a limited sampling, it also appears that the interior surfaces of the metal sash are painted in several different colors, a condition which should be corrected by the restoration of the original finish of the sash, or the use of a single paint color to closely resemble the original finish.

The original exterior doors were also quite handsome, made of bronze in a four-panel, stile and rail configuration. The upper panels were glazed and the lower panels were of solid bronze. There were also decorative iron gates installed at the east entry to the first floor. Most of the original exterior doors have been replaced with contemporary, aluminum and glass units, and the decorative iron gates have been removed. Also, due to building security issues, all but the east and west entrances to the first floor are not in active operation. Even so, the original doors are important, character defining features of the building and the bronze doors should be restored, or if aluminum must be used, it should match the appearance and detail of the bronze originals.

The character of the site and grounds have changed dramatically since 1931, when lush foundation plantings and specimen beds were installed. Since then, the large additions to the north, south and west have filled the grounds, leaving turf, a few trees and low shrub walls use to define paving areas. The parking area at the northeast corner of the building also had a significant impact, removing any sense of park-like setting in that area. As the overall campus master plan is implemented, consideration should be given to removing the surface parking lot and rehabilitating the plantings on the site, to complement the handsome courthouse building.

Pigeons roost on some of the projecting ledges of the building, particularly those above the main entry on the east facade and behind the bris de soleil at the windows of the jail floors on the north wing. Bird netting was previously installed at the bris de soleil as a deterrent, but the pigeons have broken through the netting and occupy the ledge between the bris de soleil and the windows. Rock ledges are the natural habitat of pigeons, and projecting ledges of stone buildings are attractive alternatives in an urban setting. Any deterrent system should be designed to be humane and have a minimal visual impact on the building. The federal government has had good success with pin-mounted, spring wire systems installed on horizontal building surfaces, and such a system would likely be effective at the courthouse.

While there have been significant changes to the building exterior, due to the large additions of 1958 and 1962, the east facade of the 1931 courthouse is unchanged, up to the point where it meets the later additions. The 1958 addition is within the 50-year period of potential historic significance, and is compatible with the original



The structural frame and masonry wall backup are exposed in the boiler room on the first floor, facilitating future analysis.



The original 53rd District Courtroom, on the west side of the fourth floor, has been heavily modified with an infill mezzanine.



Pieces of the original furniture remain in the building in many locations.



The historic jail has very low floor to floor heights.



Architectural artifacts stored in the jail.



Remaining jail cells and infrastructure are in place on the sixth and seventh floors.

building in terms of mass, form, fenestration, plan and materials. The 1962 addition is nearing the 50-year period of potential historic significance, and is compatible with the original building in terms of fenestration and materials, but does depart from the characteristics of the original Art Deco style. It lacks the handsome ornament and detail of the earlier building and the asymmetrical addition overpowers the original central tower element. It also contains space designed for the specialized jail functions which has been abandoned since 1986, when an off-site jail was built. As the overall campus master plan is implemented, consideration should be given to removing the 1962 addition and restoring the historic building to its 1958 appearance.

Interior Conditions

Regarding the interior character of the building, a number of significant elements remain in the 1931 portion, including the terrazzo floors in the secondary spaces and decorative plaster walls, ceilings and marble wainscot in the public spaces. Examples of the original metal four-panel, stile and rail interior door and trim installations remain in parts of the building, and some original door hardware also remains. The major circulation patterns are largely intact, although the west fire stair was removed in the 1958 improvements and the monumental stair was enclosed in 1990. However, the infilling of many of the original window openings where the additions were made and the rerouting of the building entries has fundamentally changed the character of the main corridors in the building. The installation of new infrastructure, such as the mechanical system, has also changed the floor plan, space use patterns and ceiling heights in some parts of the building. Finally, partitions installed in original spaces have changed the floor plan, space use patterns and spatial volumes in the original portion of the building. The instances where main corridors have been infilled, such as on the third and fifth floors, are especially intrusive.

Generally, the interior finishes are in good condition, primarily because the building is actively used in all areas except a very few service spaces. Through the various remodeling and renovation projects completed at the building, some of the original interior treatments have changed. The most fundamental changes involve the replacement of the decorative tile floors in the main corridors on the second, third and fourth floors and of the rubber tile floors in the three district courtrooms on the third and fourth floors. In some cases, the original materials may remain behind the new replacements, providing good documentation for future restoration of the original conditions, should that be desired. Other changes involve the replacement of the decorative pendant light fixtures in spaces throughout the building with contemporary light fixtures.

The county is also fortunate to retain a good bit of the original furniture and equipment installed in the 1931 courthouse. This collection should be retained in the building and preserved in its original context. As an overall preservation program is developed for the courthouse, in conjunction with the campus-wide facilities master plan functional space recommendations, it may be possible to return to use (or at least display) some pieces that have been shifted or abandoned.

The jail levels were designed for a very specialized function, and are difficult to convert to other uses without extensive modification. The jail levels are currently used as storage space and for special events and as film set areas. As a specific use and preservation

program is developed for the historic courthouse, an appropriate treatment for these levels can be better determined. In the abstract, any changes at these levels should be handled with care, to avoid inappropriate changes to the roof level or the relationship to the existing window placement. Egress issues must also be considered in any future use, which also must be handled with care to avoid inappropriate additions to the historic building.

Preservation Program

Travis County has expressed a desire to preserve the historic courthouse. *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, produced by the US Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, establish professional standards and guidelines for treating historic properties. The documents are the professional norm for the practice of architectural preservation, and are used by federal, state and municipal regulatory authorities as the compliance measure for appropriate preservation treatment. The Standards are specifically noted in Rule §17.2 of the Texas Administrative Code as the basis of appropriateness reviews made by the Texas Historical Commission of work proposed for historic Texas courthouses. (Under Texas Government Code §442.008, work done on historic Texas courthouses must be reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission.)

The Standards identify four treatments for historic buildings, each with its own set of standards and guidelines. Before undertaking any work on a historic structure, an appropriate preservation treatment should be determined and the respective set of standards and guidelines consulted. An abbreviated description of the four treatments is given below; the italicized text is taken directly from the Standards and the National Park Service description of the Standards. The treatment terms are often used interchangeably and inaccurately, which can lead to confusion, and it is useful to review the definitions in the context of a discussion of a preservation program for the historic courthouse.

- ***Preservation*** is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity and materials of an historic property. Preservation focuses on the maintenance and repair of existing historic materials and retention of a property's form as it has evolved over time.
- ***Rehabilitation*** is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. Rehabilitation acknowledges the need to alter or add to a historic property to meet continuing or changing uses while retaining the property's historic character.
- ***Restoration*** is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. Restoration depicts a property at a particular period of time in its history, while removing evidence of other periods.
- ***Reconstruction*** is defined as the act or process of depicting by means of new construction, the form, features, and details of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure or object for the purpose of replicating its

appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. Reconstruction re-creates vanished or non-surviving portions of a property for interpretive purposes.

Preservation projects may include aspects of more than one of these treatments, depending on the condition of the resource, the historic documentation available and the specific circumstances of the project. Rehabilitation is the treatment most frequently used, and would likely be the primary treatment selected for the Travis County Courthouse, with some elements preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate.

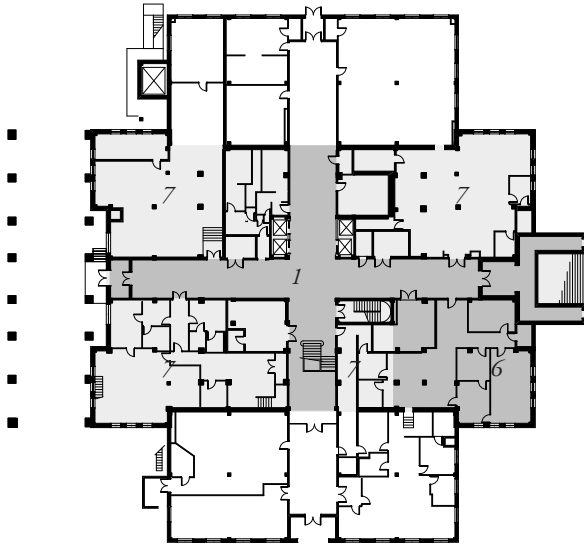
Significant Historic Spaces and Elements

As Travis County acquires additional annex space and begins to move occupants and departments to ancillary spaces, the historic courthouse should be rehabilitated for ongoing future use. Moving occupants and functions out of the historic building will relieve the overcrowded conditions and allow for the removal of infill construction and mezzanine levels from the historic spaces. While architectural programming and functional space planning is not part of this analysis, it is recommended that appropriate functions and occupants be identified for the historic courthouse that will have some sort of court or related function, consistent with the original design and intent of the building.

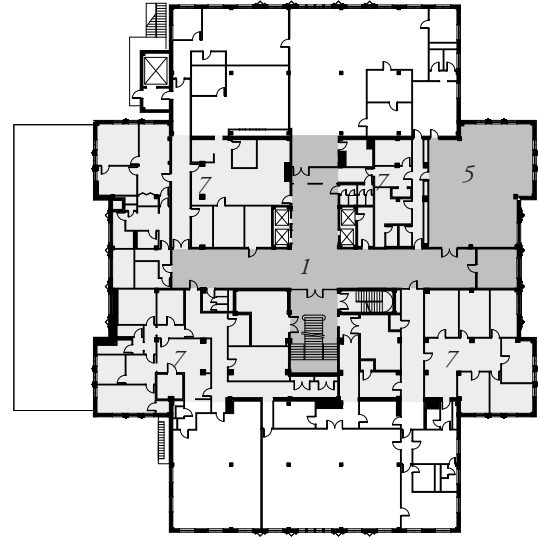
As the space program is developed for the historic courthouse, consideration should be given to the restoration of several significant historic spaces. The significant spaces were major public spaces in the original building design, have maintained the original occupant or use through time, and retain sufficient integrity or are sufficiently documented with drawings and photographs to inform an accurate restoration of the spaces.

Primary significant spaces are:

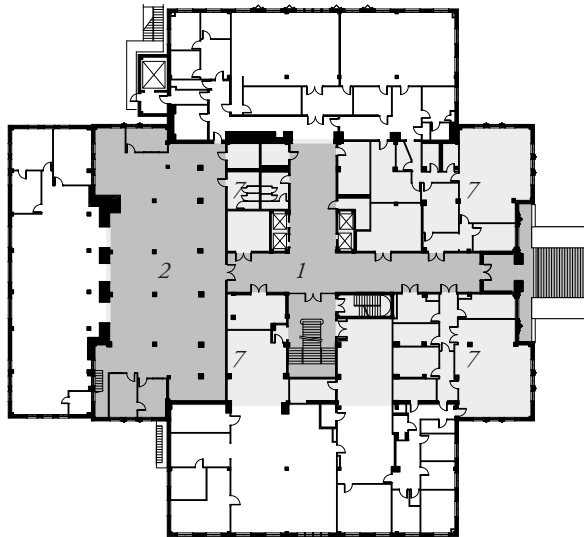
- 126th District Courtroom (original location, on the third floor): The Heman Marion Sweatt trial took place here, a very significant historical event. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings and a few photographs taken during the trial. It would also be useful to have the drawings from the 1937 furnishings project and any additional photographs of the room, if those can be located.
- 98th District Courtroom (original location, on the east side of the fourth and fifth floors): Although this room was partially restored in 1990, the spectator balcony, original rubber tile floor and pendant light fixtures and fans were not restored. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings and a documentary photograph from the design architect's project files. It would also be useful to have any additional photographs of the room, if these can be located.
- 53rd District Courtroom (original location, on the west side of the fourth and fifth floors): Although this room was substantially modified in 1984, restoration of the historic courtroom should be



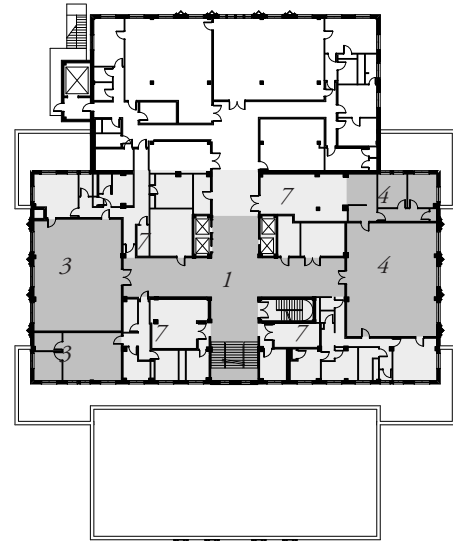
First Floor



Third Floor



Second Floor



Fourth Floor

SIGNIFICANT SPACES

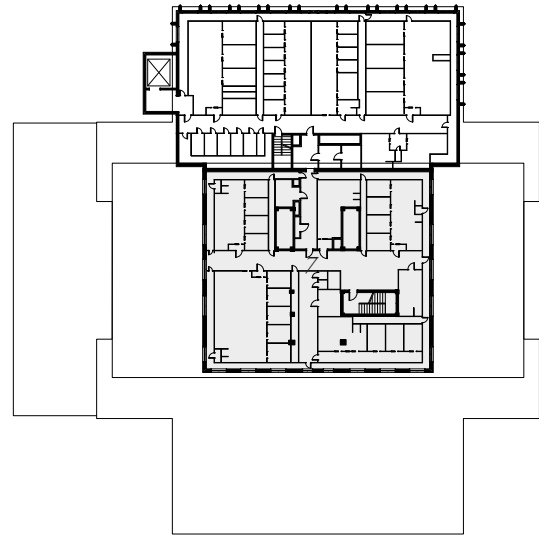
Consideration should be given to the restoration of several significant historic spaces in the building. Spaces of primary significance (shaded most dark, above) were major public spaces in the original building design. In general, they have also maintained the original occupant or use through time, and retain sufficient integrity or are sufficiently documented with drawings and photographs to inform an accurate restoration of the spaces.

The remainder of the original 1931 building (shown lightly shaded, above) is of secondary significance and should be rehabilitated, or restored as might be appropriate.

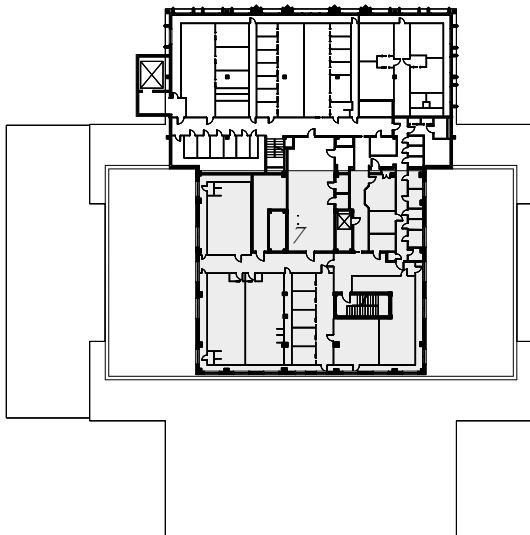
Modifications to the 1958 and 1962/1964 later additions (shown without shading, above) should be done without adverse impact to the existing exterior appearance of the building, by maintaining fenestration, exterior walls and roof planes.



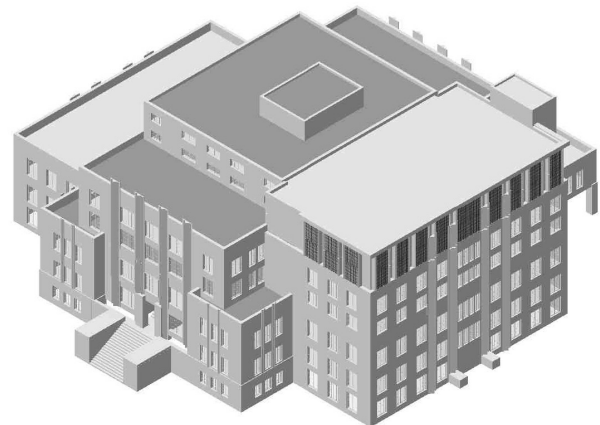
Fifth Floor



Seventh Floor



Sixth Floor



Axonometric View

LEGEND

Areas of Primary Significance, dark shade:

- 1 Corridor, Monumental Stair*
- 2 County Clerk*
- 3 District Court (53rd)*
- 4 District Court (98th)*
- 5 District Court (126th)*
- 6 Justice of the Peace*

Areas of Secondary Significance, light shade:

- 7 The remainder of the original 1931 building. (If desired, spaces within this area may be designated as primary significant spaces, and slated for restoration, by the removal of later modifications and infill construction.)*



Rust and deterioration on metal window sash.



Metal window sash with broken operator and locking device.



Lay-in acoustic tile ceilings are installed below window heads in some areas of the building.



The heads of these historic windows are above the plane of the contemporary ceiling.



Apparent moisture migration through the exterior entry floor, above the east first floor entry.



Apparent moisture migration through the masonry backup and associated efflorescence.

considered, which would require the removal of the mezzanine floor. The decorative painting, spectator balcony, original rubber tile floor and pendant light fixtures and fans should also be restored. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings and a documentary photograph from the design architect's project files. It would also be useful to have any additional photographs of the room, if these can be located.

- Main corridors and monumental stair at the first through fifth floors: All later infill construction in the corridors, such as that at the east end of the third and fifth floor corridors, should be removed and the walls, floors and ceilings restored. This will restore a sense of the original pattern of natural light and view in the spaces. The decorative lighting should also be restored. Consideration should be given to restoring the decorative tile floor in the second, third and fourth floor corridors, if additional documentation of the floor can be located. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings, but historic photographs of these spaces would be useful, if they can be located.
- County Clerk main office (on the second floor): The County Clerk has occupied this space since the original construction. Although the steel counters have been modified or removed, there appear to be pieces of the original furnishings still in use, and the counters could be restored or interpreted in combination with the other furnishings. The pendant light fixtures and ceiling fans should be restored. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings and a documentary photograph from the design architect's project files.
- The Justice Court office suite (on the first floor): The Justice of the Peace has occupied this space since the original construction. There is good documentation in the original 1931 construction drawings, but historic photographs of these spaces would be useful, if they can be located.

The remainder of the original 1931 area of the building is of secondary significance, in its current condition. Most of the other public spaces in the original 1931 construction area of the building have been more heavily modified, with the addition of infill construction. However, these spaces could also be considered for restoration, as might be desired, by the removal of infill walls and construction and the restoration of the original conditions. An example of this type of existing area is the location of the original Tax Collector office, in the southeast corner of the first floor of the 1931 portion of the building. Currently, this area has been modified with infill walls, dropped ceilings and raised platforms and is used as a courtroom. But, there is good documentation for the original configuration of this room in the 1931 construction drawings and a documentary photograph from the design architect's project files, which could be used in designing the restoration of this room.

There are also significant architectural elements remaining from the original 1931

construction, although there have been modifications to or loss of historic fabric over time. Any future preservation program should strive to restore these significant elements, including light fixtures, ceilings, windows and limestone.

Except for three exterior light fixtures at the east entry, the original decorative light fixtures have been removed throughout the building, which is a significant loss of historic fabric. There is good documentation of the light fixtures in the original 1931 furnishings drawings for the building, and a few fixtures show in some of the documentary photographs of the spaces. (Unfortunately, the light fixtures were installed as or after the building was occupied, and some of the documentary photographs were taken before the fixtures were installed.) Additional documentation in the form of photographs should be sought for these features. Even interpretation, through the use of fixtures that more closely evoke the historic originals, would be more compatible in the significant spaces.

In locations throughout the building, the ceiling plane has been modified to conceal ductwork and other utility infrastructure elements above ceiling. Often, the ceiling height is below that of the heads of the window openings in the room, further truncating the original volume and reducing the natural light in the space. The ceiling material in these modified areas is typically suspended acoustical tile with exposed ceiling grid. These modifications to the ceiling plane, particularly in the historic core of the building, negatively impact the historic spaces. Every effort should be made to restore the historic ceiling profile and material, which will need to be coordinated with the re-design of the mechanical system. If it is not possible to fully restore the original ceiling configuration, the heights should be raised as much as possible and the materials changed, to better evoke the historic ceilings.

As noted in the existing conditions description, the historic windows are significant, character defining features of the building. Some are missing hardware and do not close or operate as originally designed. Plastic glazing has been installed in some locations. Some windows are deteriorated and rusting, and need to be repaired and conserved. Every effort should be made to preserve and maintain the window sash and glazing in good condition.

As also noted in the existing conditions description, the exterior limestone masonry is a significant, character defining feature of the building. The historic record refers to one major cleaning project done on the stone and several spot joint repair projects, prior to the more extensive exterior rehabilitation project completed in 1998. A thorough analysis of the masonry and mortar joints was not completed in this abbreviated conditions review, but as more detailed analyses of the building are done, the condition of the stone and mortar should be checked to see if it is still performing as intended. Particular attention should be paid to the attachment and support systems for the masonry veneer. Expansion, jacking or deterioration in the anchoring system may lead to shifting and stress in the veneer, although no areas of deterioration were noted in this abbreviated conditions analysis. The original specifications call for the use of galvanized iron anchors, which may have deteriorated since they were installed. One instance of apparent efflorescence on the interior face of the brick backup was noted on the south side of the original building, a possible indication that moisture moves, or

has previously moved, through the walls.

Finally, the surface parking lot at the northeast corner of the site and the 1962 north wing addition are incompatible with the historic building and grounds and consideration should be given to removing them. In the context of the ongoing campus-wide planning effort, the overall programming and functional space planning work of the *Travis County Central Campus Facilities Master Plan* offers the opportunity to critically assess the current viability and long-term need of these later features.

Historic Designations

The Travis County Courthouse has not been designated as a historic structure at either the national, state or city level, but it is certainly eligible for it, if historic designation is desired. In evaluating the significance of properties for eligibility for historic designation, a range of criteria are considered, including the age of the property, architectural attributes and integrity, historical associations and archeological resources. Historic designation may qualify properties for grant funding or tax credits for qualified restoration projects, and identifies historic resources for communities. Depending on the type of designation, there may be additional review or permitting requirements for change contemplated at the property.

The National Register of Historic Places is a federal program, administered in Texas by the state historic preservation office (the Texas Historical Commission) and the National Park Service. A National Register listing does not impose any restriction in use or change of the property. It does ensure that all federally funded projects (such as transportation infrastructure) planned in the vicinity of listed properties are subject to additional review, to mitigate adverse impact to the historic property. It also clarifies the application of separate building and accessibility code provisions for qualified historic properties.

Properties nominated to the National Register are evaluated for significance at a national, state or local level in terms of one or more of four criteria. Eligible properties:

- are associated with historical events.
- are associated with the lives of significant people in our past.
- embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or represent the work of a master.
- have or may be likely to yield archaeological information important in prehistory and/or history.

In order to be designated to the Register, properties must also be at least 50 years old and must have maintained their historical integrity in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Designations at the state and city level are evaluated under similar criteria, but have more restrictive review and permitting requirements if changes are made to the property after designation. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, a program administered by the Texas Historical Commission, requires property owners to notify the Commission 60 days prior to making exterior changes, to allow time for review and consultation with the Commission. State Archeological Landmark designation, also administered by the Texas Historical Commission, requires property owners to

seek an antiquities permit from the Commission prior to making alterations. Local Historic Landmark designation, administered by the City of Austin, requires property owners to seek a Certificate of Appropriateness from the city prior to making exterior changes.

In considering the significance of the Travis County Courthouse, several of the above criteria are applicable. The building is certainly 50 years old and retains integrity of materials and design. It is a good example of the Art Deco governmental building typical of the 1930s relief era that was significant in national and local history. The historical association with the Heman Marion Sweatt and the civil rights struggle would certainly be considered, as would the use as the seat of County government since 1931.

As a related item, the courthouse is listed in the 1984 Cultural Resources Survey of the City of Austin. This survey data does not impose any regulation over the use and disposition of the structures catalogued. It was prepared primarily to provide information about the cultural and built heritage of the City of Austin, at the direction of the City Historic Preservation Office.

Historical Documentation

Travis County is fortunate to have access to a good bit of historical documentation on the design and construction of the courthouse. These resources are available from several local archival repositories and in Travis County records.

The office archive of the C. H. Page & Son Architects, including work done as Page Brothers Architects, is in the collection of the Austin History Center, which includes the construction drawings for the original 1931 courthouse building and the drawings for the original furniture and light fixtures. The original courthouse specifications are also in the C. H. Page files, as well as correspondence between the architect and the structural engineers during the construction project. There are also construction progress photographs and presentation photographs of the building exterior and interior, taken as construction was completed.

The drawings for the 1958 addition, the 1962 addition and the 1964 improvements are in the holdings of the Travis County Facilities Management Department, although there may be a few missing sheets in the later drawing sets. The specifications for the 1962 addition were located in the Austin History Center files for C. H. Page, but the specifications for the other two projects were not found.

The minutes of the Travis County Commissioners Court include extensive information about the original courthouse and later modifications and additions. The minutes cite other drawings and contract documents that likely contain useful information about the building, but these were not located during the course of this research effort.

The vertical files of the Austin History Center include numerous newspaper clippings of articles about the original courthouse and later modifications and additions. There are likely other articles in the decades of local newspapers in the collection, but these are not indexed in any way and require exhaustive searching to find. Certain articles referenced in this research were gathered by searching newspapers published surrounding the dates of significant events at the building, including the grand opening and the Heman Sweatt trial.

Recommendations for Further Research

As more in-depth research and restoration work proceeds on the building, there are a few key items referenced, but not actually found, in the research done to date that would be useful additions to the historical record of the courthouse. These include:

- architectural drawings and specifications from original or early construction phases, including the drawings and details for the interior “decoration” (likely decorative painting work),
- drawings and details for the furnishings installed in 1937 in the original 126th District Courtroom,
- missing sheets from the 1958 renovation and addition set,
- specifications for the 1958 and 1964 renovation projects
- drawings and specifications for later renovation projects, particularly the renovations done in 1984 when the 53rd District Courtroom was heavily modified.

Many informative and useful historic photographs were located in the Austin History Center, Texas Highway Department and Center for American History archives. But, there are still mysteries and undocumented spaces and elements of the buildings. The search for additional historic photographs, particularly of the major public spaces (courtrooms, corridors, public service offices, etc.), the original lighting and the decorative ceramic tile and rubber tile flooring, should continue. The county may want to make an open request to the general public for access to or donation of personal images of the courthouse.

Prior to beginning any restoration or rehabilitation project, it would be helpful to complete a program of non-destructive probing, to search for evidence of missing or obscured finish materials and elements. There may be vestiges of original flooring under walls or trim, ghosts of original lighting on plaster surfaces, etc. Paint analysis and mortar analysis, documenting original paint treatments and colors and mortar composition and appearance, should be included in this effort.

In the course of researching the Heman Sweatt trial, it was revealed that there were likely other similar suits against the University of Texas, also filed in the Travis County Courthouse. Additional research should be conducted on this topic, searching for information on suits that may have been brought by W. Astor Kirk, Herman Barnett and any other individuals, to expand the knowledge on the history of the struggle for civil rights in the courthouse.

Finally, if it has not already been done, the County should prepare a preservation maintenance plan, to assist in scheduling periodic maintenance and in defining appropriate treatments for the historic building.

Appendix

End Notes

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21. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 4 Sep 1930, U:136; 22 Sep 1930, U:150; 29 Sep 1930, U:159.
22. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 9 Oct 1930, U:169; 15 Oct 1930, U:174; 13 Oct 1930, U:173, 16 Oct 1930, U:177.
23. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 10 Nov 1930, U:389.
24. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 10 Nov 1930, U:226; 20 Nov 1930, U:301.
25. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 5 Dec 1930, U:323; 8 Dec 1930, U:326; 21 Feb 1931, U:458.

26. "Matthews Court Asked to Help At Travis Open House," *Austin American* 27 Jun 1931.
27. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 18 Dec 1930, U:372, 29 Dec 1930, U:391, 30 Dec 1930, U:401.
28. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 26 Jan 1931, U:458, 14 Feb 1931, U:456, 23 Feb 1931, U:459, 16 Mar 1931, U:485.
29. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 2 Mar 1931, U:476, 16 Mar 1931, U:485.
30. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 28 Mar 1931, U:494, 26 Jan 1935, V:605.
31. Travis County Commissioners Court Minutes, 2 May 1931, U:540, 4 May 1931, U:540, U:541; 6 Jun 1931, U:561, U:562; 19 Jun 1931, U:563, U:565, U:568, U:570, 20 Jun 1931, U:573, U:575.
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Notes on VFA Reports
HMS TCCH HVAC Improvements
No author citation or date.

It appears that all equipment and controls were replaced, but there is no reference to ductwork being replaced. Is this correct?

Requirement Detail Report
VFA, 11/18/2008

Page 1: Would not recommend replacement of existing, historic hardware. Under 4.1.7, Accessible Buildings: Historic Preservation, may allow for the retention of this original, historic hardware. Recommend conferring with the SHPO.

Page 2: Would not recommend replacement of existing, historic railings at Stair 2. Under 4.1.7, Accessible Buildings: Historic Preservation, may allow for the retention of this original, historic hardware. Recommend conferring with the SHPO. (See also note on Page 4, below. Retaining existing rails is also allowed under the Building Code.)

Page 4: Austin uses the International Building Code, not the Uniform Building Code. Per IBC 1012.9, intermediate handrails are needed on 60" centers. However, under the International Existing Building Code, for Historic Buildings, per IEBC 1103.9, existing handrails are permitted. This is also permitted for Existing Buildings under UCBC 405.1.2.

Page 5: Austin uses the International Building Code, not the Uniform Building Code. Per IBC 1012.9, intermediate handrails are needed on 60" centers. However, under the International Existing Building Code, for Historic Buildings, per IEBC 1103.9, existing handrails are permitted. This is also permitted for Existing Buildings under UCBC 405.1.2.

Page 12: Would recommend the use of the gentlest possible cleaning procedures for the historic limestone walls. Also, recommend a preliminary testing program to identify the source of the staining and devise an appropriate cleaning program. I would be very careful about using any sort of sealer, unless is it appropriate for use on limestone surfaces.

Page 13: Any work on the terrazzo should be done by workers with appropriate skill level and preceded by a sample preparation and review process, to ensure that the patch area matches the surrounding surfaces.

Page 25: Would not recommend replacing the exterior bronze doors on the original portion of the building.

Page 30: Would recommend retaining marble wall finishes in older toilet rooms, if feasible.

Page 38: Would recommend retaining and refurbishing the historic steel windows at both the original (ca. 1931) building and the later additions (ca. 1957 and 1962).

Page 39: Would recommend retaining and refurbishing the historic interior doors in

the original (ca. 1931) building.

Page 40: Would recommend retaining and refurbishing the historic terrazzo floor finish at the jail in the original (ca. 1931) building.

Page 49-50: I also noticed the lack of secondary roof drainage. Inappropriate to add scupper openings to the historic parapets, so must consider the use of a sump and secondary interior drain line at roof level.

Page 52: Any new exterior light fixtures should be selected and installed with care, to ensure they are compatible with the historic building.

Page 53: Field check on the impact of the added landing and walk recommended here.

Page 56-57: Locations in need of railings are not defined. In any visible locations, railings should be designed and installed with care to ensure compatibility with the historic building.

Page 59: Would not recommend removal of historic rails at stairs. May also want to retain a small portion of the historic cell area as an interpretive element.

Page 62: The design and configuration of the sprinkler system should be handled with care, to ensure compatibility with the historic building.

Notes on TCCH 6th and 7th Floor Remodeling Feasibility Study

Pfluger Wiginton Fawcett, 8/15/1995

Redevelopment Scenario Number One is missing from the copy posted to SharePoint.

Scenario Number Two has potential, from a preservation standpoint, because it would not require modification of the roof and building form, and would not require obscuring the existing windows, presumably.

Scenario Number Three has potential, from a preservation standpoint, because it would not require modification of the roof and building form, and would not require obscuring the existing windows, presumably.

Scenario Number Four, which includes partially modifying the roof, is inappropriate from a historical preservation standpoint.

Scenario Number Five, which includes lowering portions of the Seventh Floor, is inappropriate from a historical preservation standpoint, although the lowered floor area is shown only in the later addition on the north side.

Synopsis of Commissioners Court Minutes, Newspaper Articles, Other Documentation

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Text</i>	<i>Source</i>
7/27/1919		<i>Travis County Officials May Get New Courthouse</i> The article describes the need to replace the ca. 1876 courthouse, noting that the state intends to cancel the lease on the site and pay the county for the building, at an assessed value of \$150,000. Also lists the names of courthouse staff. Describes three district courts –Criminal, 26 th and 53rd	Austin Statesman (AS)
4/17/1929	Sale of courthouse building and lease	<i>Whereas the Court House of Travis County is now located on the property of the State of Texas, and that the County occupies same only by right of lease which expires in 1974; and whereas the State is in need of more land upon which to erect State buildings that are necessary in the conduct of the State Government; and whereas the County of Travis needs more and better buildings to conduct the business and to better protect the records of the County, therefore be it resolved that the County of Travis offer to the State the Court House site and buildings thereon for the sum of \$40,000, reserving the right to dismantle and retain such jail fixtures out of the jail building as they may indicate, surrendering such property immediately except that portion occupied by the court house building proper and designating the 1st day of January 1931 as the date of surrender of all such property to the State.</i>	V T/P 375
7/8/1929	Architect	<i>On this the 8th day of July, AD 1929, it is ordered by the court and the court does hereby authorize Page Brothers of Austin, Texas, as Architects to prepare plans and specifications for a new Court House for Travis County, Texas.</i>	V T/ P 434
7/22/1929	Advisory Committee	<i>Whereas, Travis County through its Commissioners Court contemplate the immediate construction of a Court House Building and Jail and the purpose of the Commissioners Court is to construct same in the most efficient and practical manner; and whereas, Travis County has two sites for a Court House and Jail Building one owned in fee simple and the other covered by a lease of forty-five years from the State; and whereas, the Commissioners Court of Travis County are especially desirous of the most liberal cooperation from all the citizens of Travis County, Texas in arriving at the best solution of Court House Site problem; Therefore be it resolved that the Commissioners Court of Travis County this extend to the Chamber of Commerce, all Civic Clubs of the City, the Travis County Bar Association, the labor and all public welfare organizations, including Committees from each section of the County representing the Farming Interests of Travis County and all other citizens individually and collectively, not only an invitation to cooperate with the Commissioners, but to visit the Court and discuss the angles involved and hold meetings and select from among their numbers a committee to work in conjunction with the County Commissioners in an advisory capacity to be known as an Advisory Court House Committee.</i>	V T/P 438

8/15/1929	Attorney	<i>On this the 15th day of August, 1929, it is ordered by the court and the court does hereby authorize and direct the County Judge to employ the firm of Hart, Patterson and Hart, Attorneys to aid and assist legally the Commissioners Court in all matters pertaining to the Construction of the New Court House and Jail Building.</i>	VT/P 451
8/26/1929	Site for new courthouse, demolish old courthouse, bid date of 10/8/1929	<i>At a meeting of the County Commissioners Court held at 2pm August 26th, 1929 County Judge G. S. Matthew and Commissioners Riley, Giles, Sassman and Williamson were present. It was moved by Commissioner Giles and duly seconded by Commissioner Riley that it is the judgment of the County Commissioners and that said court does now resolve that a new and modern court house and jail adequate to the needs of Travis County be erected on the site occupied by the present court house and jail on the North ½ of Block No. 123 of the City of Austin, Texas, and that the court house and jail buildings now on said real property, or such parts of same as the court shall hereafter designate to remove there from. The motion was unanimously carried.</i> <i>It was moved by Commissioner Williamson and seconded by Commissioner Sassman that the County Judge acting for the Commissioners Court shall give notice that a contract or contracts for the removal of the present court house and jail, or such part of each of same as the court shall elect to have removed, and for the erection and completion in accordance with the plans and specifications which this court shall adopt for a new court house and jail will be made by said court after the submitting to it of competitive bids for said work, and that notice of the time and place when said contract or contracts will be let shall be published in Travis County once a week for four (4) weeks prior to that set for letting said contract or contracts; that in said publication notice be given to all who shall submit bids for said work that a certified check for 5% of each bid will be required to accompany each bid and the Commissioners Court will let such contract or contracts to the lowest and best responsible bidder upon each contract so let, and that the bidder or bidders to whom said contract or contracts are let will be required to give a good and sufficient bond in the full amount of each contract price, which bond shall be executed by some surety company authorized to do business in Texas and shall be subject to approval of this court; that it be specified in said notice that said bids will be received and said contract let at the option of this court on October 8th, 1929, and that this court reserves the right to reject any and all bids. This motion was carried, all members voting in the affirmative.</i> <i>G.S. Matthews, J.C. Giles, J.R. Riley, W. E. Williamson, James Sassman</i>	VT/ P 494
8/26/1929	Notice to Contractors	NOTICE OF CONTRACTORS <i>Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas will receive bids on Tuesday, October 8th, AD 1929, at 10 o'clock A.M., at the Courthouse,</i>	VT/ P 495

in Austin, Texas, for the removal of the present courthouse ad jail, or such part of each of same as the Court shall elect to have removed, and for the erection and completion of a new courthouse and jail on the North one-half of Block 123 in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, in accordance with the plans and specifications therefore prepared by Page Brothers, Architects, copies of which plans and specifications can be procured at the office of said Page Brothers, in the Littlefield Building, in Austin, Texas upon deposit with said Page Brothers, of the sum of \$25.00 which sum will be returned to the depositor upon re-delivery of said plans and specifications to said Page Brothers.

All bids shall be addressed to George S. Matthews, County Judge of Travis County, Texas, shall be marked "Sealed Bid-Courthouse and Jail" and shall be accompanied by a certified check for 5% of the amount of each bid. The successful bidder or bidders shall be required to give good and sufficient bond in the full amount of the contract price, executed by some surety company authorized to do business in this state.

The Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

By order passed by the Commissioners Court on August 26th, 1929.

Attest: Fred C. Malone, Clerk, County Court and Ex Officio Clerk, Commissioners Court, Travis County, Texas. G. S. Matthews, County Judge, Travis County, Texas.

8/28/1929	Purchase steel furniture	<i>On this the 28th day of August 1929 it is ordered by the Court and the Court does hereby authorize the purchase of steel furniture through the County Auditor for the various offices as necessary equipment and equipment that will be used in the new courthouse.</i>	V T/P 495
8/31/1929	Bids for steel furniture	<i>BIDS. On this day came on to be heard the following bids for steel furniture: E.L. Steck and Co. \$927.00, Geo. D. Barnard and Co. \$1,007.50, Roy A. Barbisch \$979.00, Tobins \$967.50, and it appearing to the court that the bid of E.L. Steck and Company was the lowest and best bid, it is therefore ordered by the court and the court does hereby award the contract to E. L. Steck and Company.</i>	V T/ P 496
9/29/1929		<i>Voters File Courthouse Protest</i> County residents petition the County Judge and commissioners in protest against building a new courthouse on state property. Commissioners planned to demolish the ca. 1876 courthouse and replace it with a new building on the same site. Gov. Moody and Rep. Owen Pope recently indicated an intention to engage in an effort to cancel the county's lease on the state owned land. Commissioners were on the verge of opening and awarding bids for the new courthouse building, on Oct. 7.	Am Statesman
10/5/1929	Courthouse plans adopted	<i>On this the 5th day of October, 1929, it is ordered by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, meeting in regular session, all members of the court being present, that this court now adopts and approves as the plans and specifications</i>	V T/ P 509

		<i>for the new courthouse and jail building to be erected on the site of the present courthouse and jail on the North half of Block No. 123 in the City of Austin, Texas, those plans and specifications which have been prepared by Page Brothers, Architects, of Austin, Texas and heretofore submitted to this court for its approval and which, under orders of this court have been submitted by said architects to prospective bidders for the contract to erect said courthouse and jail.</i>	
10/8/1929	Award bid to Wattinger and Southern Prison Co. Reject bids for plumbing, heating and wiring	<i>On this the 8th day of October 1929, the Commissioners' Court of Travis County, Texas, all members being present in special session, in accordance with a call for such special session to be held on this date, as made by the County Judge, for the purpose of receiving and considering all bids submitted to said court for the construction of a new courthouse and jail building and appurtenances complete, in accordance with the plans and specifications therefore which have heretofore been adopted by this court, there being present county Judge G. S. Matthews and Commissioners J. C. Giles, James Riley, W. E. Williamson and James Sassman; and it appearing to the court that advertisement for said bids to be received on this date has been duly made, the court opened the bids submitted for the construction of said courthouse and jail building and appurtenances, and from examination of said bids, is of the opinion that the bid of H. E. Wattinger of Austin, Texas for the construction of the courthouse and jail building (not including the jail equipment, heating, plumbing and wiring) is the lowest and best bid therefore, and upon motion accepted said bid by unanimous affirmative vote of said Commissioners Court, and that the bid of Southern Prison Company of San Antonio, Texas, for the jail equipment and appurtenances is the lowest and best bid therefore, and upon motion accepted said bid by unanimous affirmative vote of said Commissioners Court, and that all bids submitted for the plumbing, the heating equipment and the wiring of said building being excessively high in the opinion of said court, upon motion, all members voting in the affirmative, rejected all bids so submitted for the installation of said plumbing, said heating equipment, and said wiring and ordered that readvertisement for bids for said plumbing, heating and wiring so rejected be made in accordance with law; and further ordered and determined that it would give consideration to contracts in connection with said bids of said H. E. Wattinger and said Southern Prison company at its next regular term to be commenced on the 2nd Monday in October, 1929, the same being October 14, 1929. G. S. Matthews, County Judge, J. C. Giles, J. R. Riley, W. E. Williamson, James Sassman</i>	VT/ P 518-519
10/8/1929	Jail Bid	Bid of Southern Prison Co in the amount of \$47,000.	VT/ P 567-568
10/8/1929	GC Bid	Bid of H.E. Wattinger in the amount of \$522,749.	VT/ P 568-572
10/17/1929	GC Contract	Contract with Wattinger	VT/P519-522

10/17/1929	GC Bond	Bond of Wattinger	V T/P 522-523
10/17/1929	Order for sale of warrants	Order accepting bid of Contractor, ratifying and confirming contract, authorizing the issuance of warrants in payment of contract price and levying the necessary tax to pay the interest and principal on the warrants. (Bid notice and contract with Wattinger are repeated.)	V T/P 523-530
10/18/1929	GC Bond	Bid bond check in the amount of \$27,500 submitted by Wattinger.	V T/P 530
10/23/1929	GC bond	Bond of Wattinger	V T/ P 565-567
11/12/1929	Order for sale of warrants	Order authorizing the issuance of warrants to Page Bros and levying of necessary tax to pay the interest and principal on the warrants.	V T/ P 543-548
11/18/1929	Bid Notice	Notice to Contractors for bids for heating, wiring, plumbing, to be received on 12/30/1929	V T/ P 550
12/30/1929	Bid opening, award	Seven bids received for heating, wiring and plumbing. Awards to Fox-Schmidt for heating, plumbing and wiring, in a combined, discounted bid.	V T/ P 554-555
12/30/1929	Bid of Fox-Schmidt	Proposal, Fox-Schmidt	V T/ P 572-573
1/11/1930	Rescission of sale of old courthouse	County rescinds and withdraws offer to sell courthouse building and lease of Block 123 to the State for \$40,000.	V T/ P 572
1/12/1930		<i>Points of Interest, Travis Stone to be used in Courthouse</i> Article describes that the new courthouse, "wherever it is located", will be made of limestone from Texas Quarries. Contracts were signed with Wattinger and Texas Quarries.	AAS
1/13/1930	Bond of Jail contractor	Bond of Southern Prison C.	V T/P 573-574
1/16/1930	Order for sale of warrants	Order accepting bid of Jail Contractor, ratifying and confirming contract, authorizing the issuance of warrants in payment of contract price and levying the necessary tax to pay the interest and principal on the warrants. (Bid notice and contract with Southern Prison Co. are repeated.)	V T/P 574-581
1/16/1930	Contract with Fox-Schmidt	Contract with Fox-Schmidt for heating, plumbing and wiring.	V T/P 581-584
1/16/1930	Order for sale of warrants	Order accepting bid of Fox-Schmidt, ratifying and confirming contract, authorizing the issuance of warrants in payment of contract price and levying the necessary tax to pay the interest and principal on the warrants. (Bid notice and contract with Fox-Schmidt. are repeated.)	V T/P 584-593
1/30/1930		<i>3 Offers Made County on Courthouse Lease</i> Bill to cancel courthouse ground lease to legislature, with three alternative options. County can accept either one of two blocks of state-owned land between 4 th and 5 th streets, one east and one west of Congress, or to accept \$40,000 for the value of the old courthouse and jail.	
1/30/1930		<i>Courthouse Hearing, Inspection Will Follow Open Discussion</i> Joint legislative committee on cancellation of the courthouse	

		site lease held a public hearing to receive testimony on the issue.	
2/13/1930	Bond, contract of Fox-Schmidt	Bond, Contract of Fox-Schmidt for heating, plumbing, wiring.	V T/ P 622-625
3/18/1930		<i>House Offers Old Square for Courthouse Lease</i> A second Travis county courthouse compensation bill was passed. Provided a \$40,000 compensation, or the title to the "old courthouse square" block at 3 rd and Guadalupe. Another lot, between 4 th and 5 th , and San Antonio and Guadalupe, was acceptable to the County, if the state is able to transfer the title.	Austin American
3/27/1930	Open proposals for new courthouse sites	Court received 12 proposals for a new site for the courthouse and jail, in response to their ads placed in two city newspapers: Block 96-Brazos/San Jacinto/8 th /9 th (\$103,000-123,000, plus north half of block) South Congress/Lon Martin property-(\$30,000) Block 100, north half –Guadalupe/Lavaca/8 th /9 th (\$100,000) Block 127-San Antonio/Guadalupe/10 th /11 th (\$115,300 cash) Block 147-Brazos/San Jacinto/12 th /13 th (\$106,500) Block 40-San Jacinto/Trinity/4 th /5 th (\$125,000 plus NW corner) San Antonio/Guadalupe/16 th /17 th (\$42,000) Block 120, north half and southeast corner-Trinity/Necnes/10 th /11 th (\$45,500, with entire block estimated to cost \$60,000) Block 81, north half-Guadalupe/Lavaca/7 th /8 th (\$85,000, plus considerably more for the remainder of the block) Block 122, east half – Brazos/San Jacinto/10 th /11 th (\$74,175) Block 121-San Jacinto/Trinity/10 th /11 th (\$175,525, or \$51,700 for the north half of the block) Block 123, northwest corner-Congress 10 th /11 th (\$240,000) Lots 1,2 and 3.	V U/P 28-32
3/28/1930		<i>Dozen Courthouse Sites Offered Here</i> Description of 12 sites offered to the Commissioners Court for the new courthouse. To be considered and responded to on an undetermined time frame. Court has 20 months to vacate current courthouse.	
4/14/1930	Purchase contract for Block 127	Contract between Travis County and the several property owners for warrants in the amount of \$115,300, to be paid from 1931 through 1956.	V U/P 36-42
4/28/1930	Modify plans for new site	<i>On this the 28th day of April, 1930, came on for consideration the changing of ground plans on New Court House for Travis County and it appearing that the recently purchased site will necessitate new grade lines, it is therefore ordered by the Court and the Court does hereby authorize Page Brothers, Architects, to change ground plans for new Court House to conform to new grade lines.</i>	V U/P 53

5/22/1930	Coord. with City of Austin of sanitary sewer line and electrical conduit in alley in Block 127	<i>Whereas, the City of Austin now has and is maintaining the sanitary sewer line and a conduit for its electrical line and wires in, under and along the alley in Block No. 127, of the City of Austin, Texas; And Whereas, it has been found and determined by the proper officials of the City of Austin that said sanitary sewer line only serves said Block No. 127, and may be removed without injury to the sewer system of the City of Austin; and Whereas, it has been found and determined that said conduit for said electrical line and wires should be perpetually maintained across said Block No. 127 in the space not occupied by said conduit in said alley, but changed in depth therein to conform to the courthouse to be constructed by Travis County; Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, that Travis County, Texas at its own cost and expense remove said sanitary sewer and plug the ends thereof, under the direction and supervision of the City of Austin. And, be it further resolved that the right of the City of Austin to perpetually have and maintain said conduit be and the same is hereby recognized and that all changes that may be found necessary therein in constructing the Courthouse in depth or otherwise be made at the cost and expense of Travis County and under the direction and supervision of the City of Austin and the proper officers thereof; and the right of the City of Austin to perpetually maintain said conduit and to enter the premises for keeping the same in proper condition and repair is hereby recognized.</i>	V U/ P 70
6/7/1930	Estimate 1 to GC	Estimate 1 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$15,864, less \$1,586.40 retainage, total of \$14,277.60.	V U/P 79-81
6/20/1930		Letter from Page Brothers to Gardner & Howe (structural engineers), sending over revised set of plans on the TCCH.	
6/27/1930		Letter from Page Brothers to Gardner & Howe, noting discrepancy in CH plans in beams A29 and A19, and a change to beam shown in section EE.	
6/30/1930		Letter from Gardner & Howe to Page Brothers, advising as to revisions to address discrepancy.	
6/30/1930	Estimate 2 to GC	Estimate 2 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$35,581, less \$3,558.10 retainage and \$14,000 previously paid, total of \$18,022.90	V U/P 90-92
6/30/1930	Sale of old courthouse improvements to State	Resolution on sale of old courthouse improvements to the State, in exchange for the "Old Courthouse and Jail Block" (San Antonio/Guadalupe/3 rd /4 th). County to sell this block and also another property – the south half of Block 109 (Lavaca/Colorado/9 th /10 th) – to defray the cost of the new courthouse site and the courthouse and jail construction. (Ending of lease on old courthouse site enacted by 41 st Leg, 5 th CS, SB No. 37, which called for compensation to Travis County of improvements on the old Courthouse block by patent of either Republic Square or Brush Square or Old Courthouse and Jail Block (directly south of Republic Square) or \$40,000 in cash if titles of all the above plots are defective. (The two public squares are currently being used as City Parks, and if the City objects to the sale of either	V U/P 92-94

		square, then the title is defective or objectionable.)	
8/4/1930	Estimate 3 to GC	Estimate 3 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$78,976, less \$7,897.60 retainage and \$32,000 previously paid, total of \$39,078.40	V U/P 110-112
8/4/1930	Estimate 1 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 1 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$6,775, less \$675 retainage, total of \$6,100.	V U/P 113-115
9/1/1930	CO 1 to Fox-Schmidt	Change order 1 for modifications to Fox-Schmidt for water service extensions, underground electrical service, underground telephone conduit, extension of downspout lines to new curb lines, underground electric ducts, increase in irrigation system, add oil burner to boiler, install 3 additional toilets in jury dormitory rooms. Total add is \$5,000.	V U/P 134-135
9/1/1930	Add Services to Architect	Additional compensation to Page Bros for modifications to Wattinger and Fox-Schmidt work	V U/P 135
9/1/1930	CO 1 to Wattinger	Change order for modifications to Wattinger contract, including added elevator, aluminum spandrels, additional decoration, revolving door at 1 st floor, marble wainscot, extra stone. Added costs offset by credits for less excavation and concrete and change from Indiana limestone to "Cedar Park limestone". Total amount of CO is \$51,264 add.	V U/P 135-136
9/4/1930	Cornerstone	<i>On this the 4th day of September AD 1930 came on for consideration the placing of a corner stone in the New Court House Building, and it appearing to the Court that a properly engraved grey granite stone be placed with the following names engraved in said stone. It is therefore ordered by the court and the Contractor is directed to have said stone placed in said building:</i> <div style="text-align: center;"> TRAVIS COUNTY COURT HOUSE ERECTED 1930 GEO. S. MATTHEWS, COUNTY JUDGE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS J. C. GILES PRECINCT NO. 1 J. R. RILEY, Deceased PRECINCT NO. 2 J. L. ROBBINS PRECINCT NO. 2 W. E. WILLIAMSON PRECINCT NO. 3 JAMES SASSMAN PRECINCT NO. 4 FRED C. MALONE COUNTY CLERK J. A. BELGER COUNTY AUDITOR </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> PAGE BROTHERS <i>Architects</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> H. E. WATTINGER <i>Contractor</i> </div> </div>	V U/P 136
9/4/1930	Estimate 4 to GC	Estimate 4 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$108,904, less \$10,890 retainage and \$71,000 previously paid, total of \$27,014	V U/P 136-138
9/4/1930	Estimate 2 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 2 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$16,975, less \$1,695 retainage and \$6,000 previously paid, total of \$9,280.	V U/P 139-140
9/22/1930	Architect hired for steel furniture design	<i>On this the 22nd day of September, AD 1930, it is ordered by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, and the Court does hereby direct Page Brothers, Architects, to prepare plans and specifications for steel furniture and equipment for</i>	V U/P 150

		<i>new courthouse building; It is further ordered that the said Page Brothers confer with each and every County Official as to the needs of his or her office, making deductions for all furniture and steel equipment now in use that may be used in the new building; Said plans and specifications to be submitted by said Architects to the Commissioners Court as soon as practicable for adoption or rejection as a basis for the advertisement for bids; And it is further Resolved by the County Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas that Page Brothers, Architects, be allowed a commission on the aggregate sum of equipment purchased of 4% per cent, and that said fee and commission be paid in the same manner as other fees and commissions to said Architects on the new court house.</i>	
9/29/1930	Bid award for building hardware	Bids for hardware considered by the Court. Three bids received, in response to ads, bid awarded to Walter Tips Company for \$4,500.	V U/P 159
10/6/1930	Estimate 3 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 3 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$33,425, less \$3,342.50 retainage and \$15,000 previously paid, total of \$15,082.50.	V U/P 164-166
10/6/1930	Estimate 5 to GC	Estimate 5 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$152,612, less \$15,261.20 retainage and \$98,000 previously paid, total of \$39,350.80	V U/P 166-168
10/8/1930	Ad for steel furniture	Bid advertisement for furnishing and installation of steel furniture	V U/P 169
10/9/1930	Hire Mr. Gubbels to prepare landscape plans, ad for landscape installation	<i>On this the 9th day of October, AD 1930, with County Judge G. S. Matthews and Commissioners J.C. Giles, J.L. Robbins, James Sassman and W. E. Williamson present: upon motion made, duly seconded and unanimously carried, it was ordered by the court that Mr. Gubbels be employed as the landscaper for the new Court House grounds for the sum of Three Hundred (\$300) Dollars, to draw plans and direct the landscaping and planting of shrubbery; and it was further ordered by the court that the county Judge be and is hereby directed to give notice that a contract would be awarded for landscaping and terracing of said grounds and the furnishing and planting of shrubbery on said site, according to plans and specifications drawn by Mr. Gubbels and adopted by this court, giving notice of the time and place when said contract will be awarded; said notice to be in words and figures as follows: Text of ad given in minutes.</i>	V U/P 169-170
10/13/1930	Estimate 1 to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 1 paid to Southern Prison Co., in the amount of \$8,889, less \$889 retainage, total of \$8,000.	V U/P 173-174
10/15/1930	Remove Scott house from site	<i>On this the 15 day of Oct. 1930, came on to be heard the letter of H. E. Wattinger, declaring Dr. Scott residence on court house site no longer needed and in fact is impeding progress in grading the grounds, and it appearing to the court that said residence is no longer needed but that it is in the way, it is therefore ordered by the court and the court does hereby direct Mr. G. Flury to remove said residence from the court house site at once. And it is so ordered.</i>	V U/P 174-175
10/16/1930	CO 1 to	Change order for modifications to Southern Prison Co.	V U/P 177-

	Southern Prison Co.	contract, to provide all new material for the first floor jail, in lieu of using material from the old jail. Total amount of CO is \$5,250 add.	178
10/17/1930	Order for sale of warrants	Order authorizing the additional items to the GC, Fox-Schmidt and Southern Prison Co., plus a small contingency fund, for a total warrant amount of \$72,000	V U/P 188-193
11/3/1930	Estimate 6 to GC	Estimate 6 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$186,090, less \$18,609 retainage and \$117,000 previously paid, total of \$50,481	V U/P 212-215
11/8/1930	Estimate 4 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 4 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$39,075, less \$3,907.50 retainage and \$30,000 previously paid, total of \$5,167.50.	V U/P 217-219
11/8/1930	Estimate 1 Adds to GC	Estimate 1 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$22,592, less \$2,259.20 retainage, total of \$20,332.80	V U/P 220-222
11/10/1930	Cornerstone	<i>Whereas on the 20th day of October, A.D. 1930, Masons of Travis County, under the auspices of Austin Lodge No. 12, R.N. Wickline, Worshipful Master and Master of Ceremonies, presided at the laying of the corner-stone of the new courthouse for Travis County, and whereas the Commissioners Court and attaches are highly appreciative of this ceremonial and the warm and friendly attitude of the Lodge, and wish to apprise the Lodge of their gratitude, therefore be it resolved that this Court publicly thank Austin Lodge No. 12 and it's Worshipful Master for their splendid and gratuitous assistance in dedicating one of Texas' finest courthouse, with their beautiful ceremony, and as a further expression of our sincere thanks, direct that this Resolution be spread on the Minutes of the Court and that a certified copy be sent R.N. Wickline, Worshipful Master, with the request that he communicate it to the Lodge.</i>	V U/P 389-390
11/10/1930	Bids for furniture opened	Three bids received for steel equipment and wood furniture, electrical light fixtures and wood blinds. Awards made to Swann Schulle Furniture Co for the furniture, Jno. L. Martin for light fixtures and Jno. H. Tobin for blinds, at a total cost of \$67,481.15	V U/P 226-227
11/1930	Bids for blinds, furniture, lighting	Equipment bids for blinds, lighting, furniture are recorded here.	V U/P 334-347
11/15/1930	Blinds contract	Contract with Tobin for blinds, in the amount of \$3,498	V U/P 248-253
11/15/1930	Architect fee on furniture	Additional contract with Page Bros for 4% commission on furniture, light fixtures, blinds, in the amount of \$2,698.45	V U/P 253-257
11/15/1930	Light fixt contract	Contract with Martin for light fixtures, in the amount of \$11,912.15	V U/P 258-262
11/15/1930	Furniture contract	Contract with Swann-Schulle Furniture for steel and wood furniture, in the amount of \$52,051. (The amount is broken down by courtroom furniture, steel furniture, chairs and beds and allowances.)	V U/P 263-268
11/15/1930	Bond for blinds	Bond of Tobin	V U/P 275-277

11/15/1930	Bond for light fixtures	Bond of Martin	V U/P 277-279
11/15/1930	Bond for furniture	Bond of Swann and Schulle	V U/P 279-281
11/20/1930	Lease on Block 123	County surrendered possession of north half of Block 123 to the State on this date. County Judge to enter in to a lease arrangement until September 10, 1931 at no charge, in the interest of the rent collected by the State on the Old Courthouse and Jail Block. After this date, the County to pay rent of \$250 per month for the north half of block 123.	V U/P 301
11/24/1930	Lease on Block 123	The full text of the actual lease agreement is given.	V U/P 307-308
12/1/1930	Estimate 7 to GC	Estimate 7 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$255,603, less \$25,560.30 retainage and \$167,000 previously paid, total of \$33,042.70	V U/P 312-314
12/4/1930	Estimate 5 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 5 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$44,850, less \$4,485 retainage and \$35,000 previously paid, total of \$5,365.	V U/P 317-319
12/4/1930	Estimate 2 Adds to GC	Estimate 2 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$31,762, less \$3,176.20 retainage and \$20,000 previously paid, total of \$8,585.80	V U/P 319-320
12/5/1930	Landscape work proposal	Landscape work proposal from Wattinger, for \$20,255, with many specific categories of work and plant types itemized.	V U/P 323-325
12/6/1930	Estimate 2 to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 2 paid to Southern Prison Co., in the amount of \$17,777.77, less \$1,777.77 retainage and \$8,000 previously paid, total of \$8,000.	V U/P 325-326
12/8/1930	Contract for landscape work	Contract with Wattinger for landscape work, including sidewalks, curbs and landscaping of grounds, in the amount of \$20,257	V U/P 326-334
12/6/1930	Landscape bond	Bond of Wattinger for landscape work given	V U/P 354-356
12/18/1930	Payment to Architect	Additional services for "extras" paid to Page Bros, in the amount of \$1,000	V U/P 372-373
12/18/1930	Payment to Architect	Basic services paid to Page Bros, in the amount of \$5,000	V U/P 374-375
12/29/1930	Estimate 3 Adds to GC	Estimate 3 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$38,398, less \$3,839.80 retainage and \$28,000 previously paid, total of \$6,558.20	V U/P 391-393
12/29/1930	Estimate 8 to GC	Estimate 8 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$338,568, less \$33,856.80 retainage and \$227,000 previously paid, total of \$77,701.20	V U/P 394-397
12/29/1930	Estimate 3 to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 3 paid to Southern Prison Co., in the amount of \$42,222.21, less \$4,222.21 retainage and \$16,000 previously paid, total of \$22,000.	V U/P 397-398
12/29/1930	Estimate 6 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 6 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$52,350, less \$5,235 retainage and \$40,000 previously paid, total of \$7,115.	V U/P 398-401
12/30/1930	Error in Estimate 8 to	Estimate 8, in error, cancelled. Corrected amount of \$54,000 paid to Wattinger	V U/P 401-404

	GC		
1/26/1931	District Clerk Door	Page Bros directed to order Wattinger to install a double door leading to the District Clerk's Office, in lieu of the single door now shown on plans, at an extra cost of \$260. Also, a single door between the County Judge's office and the adjoining office was added, at a sum of \$40.	V U/P 427
1/31/1931	Estimate 9 to GC	Estimate 9 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$385,933, less \$38,595.30 retainage and \$304,000 previously paid, total of \$43,339.70	V U/P 422-424
1/31/1931	Estimate 4 Adds to GC	Estimate 4 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$41,208, less \$4,120.80 retainage and \$34,000 previously paid, total of \$3,087.20	V U/P 424-426
2/14/1931	Estimate 1 Adds to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 1, supplementary contract, paid to Southern Prison Co. in the amount of \$4,444.44, less \$444.44 retainage, total of \$4,000	V U/P 455-456
2/14/1931	Telephone	<i>County Clerk is hereby directed to notify the Southwestern Telephone Company that they favor and herein request said Company to install in new Courthouse a direct line telephone system.</i>	V U/P 456
2/21/1931	New landscape plan	<i>Plans were submitted by County Engineer, J.G. Morgan, showing an entirely new plan for landscaping new courthouse grounds, and it appearing to the court that said plans are more suitable to the Commissioners Court than former plans prepared by Jac. L. Gubbels, and it further appearing to the court that the new plans will effect a saving to the tax payers of \$7,000, it is therefore ordered by the court and the court does now adopt and approve the plans and specifications this day submitted by J.G. Morgan, County Engineer, as the authentic plans and specifications for landscaping of new courthouse grounds, which plans and specifications are made the working basis for contract with H.E. Wattinger, Contractor, heretofore awarded contract for landscape work.</i>	V U/P 458
2/23/1931	Iron gates	<i>Came on to be considered certain changes and additions to Travis County courthouse and it appearing to the court that H.E. Wattinger, Contractor, has agreed to furnish and erect complete two ornamental iron gates for the sum of \$420 and it appearing to the court that the same are needed, it is therefore ordered by the court and the court does authorize and direct the said H.E. Wattinger to furnish and erect said ornamental iron gates under the directions of Page Brothers, Architects.</i>	V U/P 459
3/2/1931	Estimate 5 Adds to GC	Estimate 5 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$43,906, less \$4390.60 retainage and \$37,000 previously paid, total of \$2,515.40	V U/P 471-473
3/2/1931	Estimate 10 to GC	Estimate 10 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$447,503, less \$44,750.30 retainage and \$347,000 previously paid, total of \$55,752.70	V U/P 473-476
3/2/1931	Estimate 7 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 7 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$59,150, less \$5,915 retainage and \$47,000 previously paid, total of \$6,235.	V U/P 476-478
3/16/1931	Add doors	Two No. 5 doors added on third floor, at a cost of \$315 (From later references in the payment estimate applications,	V U/P 485

		these two doors were apparently in the District Attorney area.)	
3/16/1931	Decorating	Court authorized Wattinger to proceed with decorating of the courthouse, done under a \$5,000 allowance in his contract, at a cost of \$4,600. Details and sketches for the decorating were approved by the Architects and the Court.	V U/P 485
3/28/1931	Concessions not allowed	<i>On this the 28th day of March, A.D. 1931, the Commissioners Court of Travis County considered the advisability of granting concessions in the new Courthouse building, and it appearing to the Court that it would be unfair to the merchants near the Courthouse and would mar the beauty and appearance of the building; it is therefore ordered by the court and the Court does hereby and now disapprove the granting of any concessions in the courthouse building.</i>	V U/P 494
3/31/1931	Estimate 4 to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 4 paid to Southern Prison Co., in the amount of \$45,555.55, less \$4,555.55 retainage and \$38,000 previously paid, total of \$3,000.	V U/P 496-497
3/31/1931	Estimate 11 to GC	Estimate 11 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$497,578, less \$49,757.80 retainage and \$402,749 previously paid, total of \$45,071.20	V U/P 497-500
4/11/1931	Estimate 6 Adds to GC	Estimate 6 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$46,956, less \$4,695.600 retainage and \$39,000 previously paid, total of \$3,260.40	V U/P 510-512
4/11/1931	Estimate 1 Adds to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 1, extras, paid to Fox Schmidt, in the amount of \$3,500, less \$350 retainage, total of \$3,150	V U/P 512-514
4/11/1931	Estimate 8 to Fox-Schmidt	Estimate 8 paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$63,750, less \$6,375 retainage and \$53,000 previously paid, total of \$4,375.	V U/P 514-516
4/11/1931	Supplemental landscape agreement	Supplemental landscaping agreement between County and H.E. Wattinger for revised landscaping scheme, in the amount of \$16,370.42	V U/P 516-526
4/30/1931	Estimate 12 to GC	Estimate 12 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$513,352, less \$51,335.20 retainage and \$447,749 previously paid, total of \$14,267.80	V U/P 531-534
4/30/1931	Estimate 1 Landscaping	Estimate 1, landscaping, paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$2,981.20, less \$596.24 retainage, total of \$2,384.96	V U/P 534-536
4/30/1931	Estimate 7 Adds to GC	Estimate 7 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$51,296, less \$5,228.60 retainage and \$42,000 previously paid, total of \$4,157.40	V U/P 536-539
5/2/1931	Chairs for 3 rd Dist Ct, fuel oil tank	<i>Court passed order to purchase 195 chairs for 3rd District Court room from Bickley Bros. of Houston, Texas, at a price of \$4.45 each, in accordance with specifications and bids. All other bids to be rejected, said Contract on file. Court passed order to install one 5,000 gallon fuel oil tank at Courthouse in accordance with price submitted by Fox-Schmidt.</i>	V U/P 540
5/4/1931	Wire rail added	<i>Court passed authority to build wire guard on stairway leading from Storage Vault to County Clerk's office at cost of \$130.</i>	V U/P 540
5/4/1931	Refinish furniture	<i>Court passed order directing H.E. Wattinger to refinish and repair all furniture now located in Courthouse or other County offices at a cost of \$3,350 in accordance with bid and</i>	V U/P 541

<i>specifications on file with County Clerk.</i>			
6/1/1931	Estimate 13 to GC	Estimate 13 paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$522,749, less \$26,137.45 retainage and \$461,749 previously paid, total of \$34,862.55	V U/P 552-553
6/1/1931	Estimate 2 Landscaping	Estimate 2, landscaping, paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$8.089, less \$1,617.80 retainage and \$2,000 previously paid, total of \$4,471.20	V U/P 554-556
6/1/1931	Estimate 8 Adds to GC	Estimate 8 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$54,425.10, less \$2,721.15 retainage and \$46,000 previously paid, total of \$5,701.95	V U/P 556-559
6/1/1931	Final Estimate to Southern Prison Co.	Final Estimate paid to Southern Prison Co., in the amount of \$47,000, less \$41,000 previously paid, total of \$6,000.	V U/P 559-561
6/6/1931	Estimate 2 Adds to Southern Prison Co.	Estimate 2 paid to Southern Prison Co, in the amount of \$5,250, less \$4,000 previously paid and \$77.92 accrued interest, total \$1,172.08	V U/P 561-562
6/6/1931	Bids for mattresses	Bids for 100 mattresses and covers for jail, at a cost of \$4.30 each, from Hurley Mattress & Awning Factory, Austin, Texas, to be delivered not later than 6/22/1931	V U/P 562-563
6/7/1931		<i>County Officials Get Ready to Move to New Courthouse</i> Move set for Saturday, 6/20/1931, with offices to be open on Monday, and a formal opening set for Saturday, 6/27/1931. Old wooden furniture will be refinished and used along side new furniture.	Am Statesman
6/19/1931		<i>Officials Start Trek to New Courthouse</i> Commissioners formally accepted the new courthouse this morning, working out a last minute dispute that arose between the contractor and the county over \$13,000 on accrued interest on the construction warrants. The interest dispute arose the previous week and, if not resolved, threatened to delay occupancy of the new courthouse. County officials began moving records and equipment to the new building this day.	AS
6/19/1931	Final estimate to GC	Final estimate paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$522,749, less \$495,749 previously paid, total of \$27,000	V U/P 563-565
6/19/1931	Final Add estimate to Fox-Schmidt	Final Adds estimate paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$5,965, less \$3,000 previously paid, total of \$2,965.	V U/P 565-568
6/19/1931	Final estimate to Fox-Schmidt	Final estimate paid to Fox-Schmidt, in the amount of \$64,467, less \$57,000 previously paid, total of 7,457.	V U/P 568-570
6/19/1931	Estimate 9 Adds to GC	Estimate 9 Adds paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$58,454.24, less \$51,000 previously paid, total of \$7,454.24	V U/P 570-572
6/20/1931	Final Adds estimate to Page Bros	Final Additional Services estimate paid to Page Bros, in the amount of \$1,108.65	V U/P 573-575
6/20/1931	Final Basic Services estimate to	Final Basic Services estimate paid to Page Bros, in the amount of \$6,000	V U/P 575-577

6/20/1931		<i>Moving Day on at County School Office</i>	AS
		County school superintendent and staff will move on Monday.	
6/20/1931		<i>\$939,000 is Final Courthouse Cost, Commission Hears</i>	AA
		Interest controversy was over a coupon dated 2/1931, but not executed until 6/1931. Dispute resolved, building accepted, furniture all in place, and moving begun. Will surrender lease on old courthouse and additional space in Brueggerhoff building, at 10 th and Congress, on July 1. Move to new courthouse will save \$275 a month in rent.	
6/21/1931		<i>County Forsakes 56-Year-Old Home for New Building</i>	AAS
		New courthouse to officially be the county place of business at 10am Monday morning. County tax collector was the first to open in the new building, on Saturday afternoon. Judge Moore on east side of 4 th floor, Judge Wheeler on west side of 4 th floor. Third district courtroom, for future court, also provided. Prisoners will be transferred from the old jail around July 1, to allow for public tours of the new jail. Article also notes that the new courthouse provides for the separation of white and negro witnesses, with separate witness rooms, restrooms and lavatories. Construction took about 14 months to complete, beginning on April 18, 1930, and completing several months ahead of schedule.	
6/22/1931		<i>New Offices at Courthouse Occupied</i>	AS
		Article describes first court case tried in new building on Monday morning, first cases filed, etc. Tax collector processed automobile registrations on Saturday afternoon.	
6/22/1931	Block 127 site is legal residence of County	<i>On this the 22nd day of June A.D. 1931 it is ordered by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, and the Court does hereby designate the Courthouse Building located on Block 127 in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas, as the legal residence of aforesaid County for the transaction of legal matters in and for said County, and the legal site for holding all sessions of the Commissioners, County and District Courts, and further designates said building and location as the legal residence of all County and District Officers in and for Travis County, Texas.</i>	V U/P 572
6/23/1931		<i>County Moves and Plans Open House</i>	AA
		Article describes early actions in new building. Commissioners in offices on third floor. First deed filed. One key opens exterior door and interior office door. First civil case was a divorce in 98 th district court with Judge Moore.	
6/23/1931	Formal opening	<i>On this the 23rd day of June A.D. 1931, it is the desire of the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, assembled in regular session, with all members thereof present, to extend to the predecessors of the present court, a cordial invitation to meet with the present court on the 27th day of this month, and assist in the formal opening of the new courthouse and jail building, for the inspection of the general public; and it is further ordered by the court and the clerk is hereby directed to</i>	V U/P 573

	<i>invite by letter each member of the former Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas.</i>	
6/26/1931	<i>Legion Will Raise Courthouse Flag</i> Travis Post No. 76 to raise flag in opening ceremony. All departments except county farm and home demonstrator are in the building. Large signs have been banned from the building – elevator directory on main floor and metal signs mounted over every office door. Installation of light fixtures ongoing. Telephones installed in many offices. Landscape plant installation ongoing, to be largely finished in time for the grand opening. Elevators go to 5 th floor, jail accessed by hidden stairway to 6 th floor, and separate stair between 6 th and 7 th floors.	AA
6/26/1931	<i>No Speeches at Courthouse Opening</i> No formal ceremony planned for open house, but former county judge and commissioners given special invitation to attend.	AS
6/26/1931	<i>Hundreds Throng County Jail, But Only for an Inspection</i> Jail can hold 158 prisoners. Juveniles and women on 1 st jail floor and men on 2 nd jail floor.	AS
6/26/1931	<i>Sandwich Shop Caters to all Appetites</i> E and E Sandwich shop, operated by Ernest Barnes and McKean Eilers, opened opposite the courthouse on Friday morning.	AS
6/27/1931	<i>Hundreds View Courthouse and Jail</i> Hundreds visited the building before noon, and more expected during the afternoon portion of the open house. Flowers in many offices, and the tax collector had a radio installed to provide music for the open house. The district clerk also had a radio installed the afternoon of the open house. Across the street, the Bell Ice Cream company and the E and E Sandwich shop were also showing visitors around. Manuel Besa was the first man to be sentenced in the new courthouse, in the 53 rd district court.	AS
6/27/1931	<i>Matthews' Court Asked to Help At Travis Open House</i> Long description of the building during open house. Previous county judge and commissioners court, who started the project, given special invitation to attend. Article notes that the previous court issued warrants to finance the land purchase and construction cost, which was opposed by some taxpayers, and they were subsequently voted out of office. Bus service to the building described. Ample parking provided in the street around the building. Large ads from project participants, businesses, offering congratulations to the county. <i>As a guide to the visitors, the precinct and minor county offices are located on the first floor. Administrative county offices are on the second floor. The county court, probate office, county auditor and commissioner as well as county school superintendent, health and welfare departments are found on the third floor. The fourth floor has been given over to the</i>	AA

		<i>district courts and allied offices, including that of the district clerk and offices of the district judges and district attorney's department.</i>	
		<i>On the fifth floor are located the office of the building manager and county engineer, the offices of the district court reporters, various jury dormitories and grand jury room. The sixth floor contains the jailer's apartment and the first floor of the jail while the seventh floor houses the upper jail floor.</i>	
6/27/1931	Flag raising	<i>June 27th, 1931. The following members of the American legion of Austin, Texas raised the flag over the courthouse. U. Johnson, master of ceremonies, Ben H. Wray, bugler, L. E. Ledbetter, color sergeant, Wm. S. Fussell, bugler, B. L. Hausman, rifles, Louis G. Margos, rifles.</i>	V U/P 573
6/28/1931		<i>Flowers Bedeck New Courthouse</i> Glowing description of the open house. The radio installed in the tax collectors office was provided by Newt Brunson, Austin radio dealer, and provided music for the entire main floor of the building.	AAS
6/30/1931	Final estimate to Swann-Schulle	Final estimate paid to Swann-Schulle for courthouse furniture and furnishings, in the amount of \$52,051	V U/P 577-579
6/30/1931	Add fixtures for ladies room	<i>On this the 30th day of June, A.D. 1931, came on to be considered the installation of fixtures including water, lavatory and toilet in the office of the County Clerks' Private Office to be used as a ladies' Rest Room for the first floor, and it appearing to the Court that the bid of Fox-Schmidt Company for Three Hundred Sixty Eight and No/100 Dollars to make said installation is a fair price; it is therefore ordered by the court and the court does hereby order and direct the said Fox-Schmidt to make said installation.</i>	V U/P 580
7/6/1931	Final Furniture estimate to Page Bros	Final estimate for furniture and equipment work paid to Page Bros, total of \$2,698.45	V U/P 583-584
7/6/1931	Block 123 to State	<i>On this the 6th day of July, A.D. 1931, it is ordered by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas and said court does by this order abandon old Courthouse site at the Corner of Eleventh Street and Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, together with all improvements thereon, the same reverting to the State of Texas, in accordance with resolutions and statutes heretofore enacted.</i>	V U/P 585
8/6/1931	Refund outstanding warrants	Outstanding Courthouse and Jail Warrants, Courthouse Improvement and Courthouse Site Purchase Warrants are refunded into bonds.	V U/P 596
8/6/1931	Final Estimate on Landscaping	Final Estimate on landscaping paid to Wattinger, in the amount of \$16,410.52, less \$6,257 previously paid, total of \$10,153.52	V U/P 596-599
8/11/1931		126 th District Court created	
8/13/1931		<i>Bills Passed During Special Session</i> HB 53, Creates the 126 th judicial district, Travis County. Approved.	AS
8/15/1931	Order	Outstanding Courthouse warrants refunded into bonds	V U/P 614-

	refunding warrants		626
10/15/1931	Light fixture estimate paid	First and final estimate paid to John L. Martin for furnishing and installing light fixtures and fans, in the amount of \$11,912.15	V V/P 20-21
2/13/1932	Use fees	Fee for use of courtroom	V V/P 83
2/15/1932	Cleaning supplies	Contracts awarded for disinfectants, cleaning supplies, mops and toilet paper	V V/P 89-91
1/8/1934	CWA Murals	<i>Court authorized placing two mural paintings depicting Texas History to be placed in the Hall of Main floor at entrance to County Clerk's Offices; such paintings being done by artists employed by C.W.A. and without costs to the County.</i>	V V/P 481
1/26/1935	Elevator maintenance	Contract with Otis Elevator Company for maintenance of Elevators in CH Building on Basis of \$42.50 per month, renewed. Contract signed and to be returned for recordation.	V V/P 604
1/26/1935	No concessions	Court re-enacted their previous resolution to prohibit concession stands in the Courthouse building.	V V/P 605
3/6/1935	Rubber tile	Court authorized laying of rubber tile in portion of County Court room, at price of \$302.00	V V/P 634
5/15/1935	County Court Dorm	Moved and seconded to allow C. W. A. to use County Court Jury Dormitory as additional office space.	V W/P 68
6/5/1935	Jail doors, locks	Bids of Trafton Tile Co. and Modern Welding Co. on installing steel stops under jail doors, new lock work, changing combinations, acetylene welding approved in total amount of \$175.00.	V W/P 81
6/30/1936	Dining concession	Moved and seconded that the State Commission for the Blind be authorized to place a blind person in charge of a concession stand in the County Court House.	V W/P 328
1/20/1937	Two desk phone in Clerk office	<i>To the Honorable Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas. Gentlemen: I respectfully request your permission to incur whatever additional expense there might be in installing two extension phones to the desks in our main office. At present we have a counter phone but no desk phones, and due to an increased volume of telephone calls, we find that we lose too much time in answering the counter phone. I believe that the small additional expense of 50 cents or \$1.00 a month will be greatly outweighed by the waiving in time and clerical expense. Respectfully yours, Emilie Limberg, County Clerk, Travis County, Teas. Approved and allowed by order of the Commissioners Court of Travis County on this the 20th day of Jan. 1937. Geo. S. Matthews, County Judge</i>	V W/P 456
5/8/1937	Furnishing 126 th Dist Court	Bids to be received on 5/26/1937 for installing railings, desks, doors and furniture in the 126 th District Court room, plans and specifications prepared by C. H. Page, architect.	V W/P 534-535
5/26/1937	Furnishing 126 th Dist Court	Five bids received for the furnishing work, low bidder Steck Company, at \$5,619.05, to be completed in 60 working days	V W/P 537
5/31/1937	Furnishing	Agreement between Travis County and Steck Company for	V W/P 540-

	126 th Dist Court	furnishing and equipment work for the 126 th District Courtroom	543
6/1937		<i>Travis County Courthouse at Sixth Birthday</i> Article describes the fine site, and the houses that once sat on it, and beautiful views from the courthouse windows. It also describes the businesses surrounding the courthouse building, including the Courthouse Café, the American Service Station, the Courthouse Beauty Shop, a barber shop, and Biggs & Company cleaners.	AS
6/4/1938	Paint jail interior	Bids to be received for painting the interior of the Travis County jail on 6/20/1938	V X/P 57
6/5/1938		<i>Courthouse Puts County to Fore</i> Description of county courthouse on the seventh anniversary of occupancy. The article describes where the three district courtrooms are, by district number: <i>Classifying the various floors and the offices located on them, the first or basement floor is occupied by precinct offices; the second and third by county offices, and the fourth and fifth by district offices. The sixth and seventh floors are occupied by the county jail.</i> <i>On the basement floor are located the offices of the two justices of the peace, county engineer, county farm and home demonstrators, county probation offices and the boiler room is located on a lower level.</i> <i>Housed on the second floor are the sheriff's office, tax assessor and collector offices and county clerk, while on the third floor are located the county court, county auditor, county attorney, county school superintendent and the 126th district court and court reporter. Offices of the county commissioners and the commissioners court room also are on this floor.</i> <i>The fourth floor houses the 53rd and 98th district courts and the offices of the district clerk and the district attorney and his two assistants. Offices of the three district judges also are located on this floor.</i> <i>On the fifth floor are located the grand jury room, district court jury dormitories, and offices of the 53rd and 98th district court reporters.</i>	AS
6/5/1938		<i>2 Judges Served Travis Back When</i> Travis and Williamson counties once shared two district judges and one district attorney. As of 1938, three district judges for Travis county, alone.	AS
6/20/1938	Paint jail interior	Moved and seconded that bids on painting jail be opened. Bids opened and filed, and checks accompanying bids returned to the bidders. (Apparently, this bid was not awarded.)	V X/P 59
3/26/1939		<i>History of Oldest Court is Written</i> Description of the history of the 53 rd district court. Created in 1891.	AS
11/19/1939		<i>Travis District Judges Busy Persons With Dockets Overcrowded; Specialization Suggested as Solution</i> 98 th district court created in 1929 or 1930, and old criminal district court abolished, and renamed the 98 th	AAS

		district court. Article describes a current need to have another district court devoted to domestic relations and criminal cases, to allow the other courts to handle the crowded civil case docket. Also, a suggestion for a law library is made.	
5/4/1940		<i>Bench and Bar Honor Pioneers</i> On the occasion of the 100 th anniversary of the opening of the first Travis county district court (May 4, 1840), ceremony held in 53 rd district court room.	Am Daily Trib
5/5/1940		<i>Centennial of Courts Observed</i> Description of ceremony in 53 rd district courtroom to observe 100-year history of the founding of district courts in Travis county.	AS
8/10/1940	Repair windows	Estimates for repairing Court House Windows and walls filed by Peter Allidi and Lawrence Alemon. (Note: note sure whether this work was actually done.)	V X/P 447
11/22/1940	Roller shelves	District Clerk authorized to purchase roller shelves.	V X/P 479
12/4/1940	Folding chairs	Motion made and passed that County purchase forty folding chairs.	V X/P 480
1/4/1941	New door	Motion passes permitting District Clerk to use small room just west of District Clerk's Office. Authorized to cut doorway.	V X/P 497
8/13/1941	Steel counters	Mr. Chote moved that steel counters for the County Clerk's office be purchased. This motion seconded by Mr. Brodie.	V X/P 607
1/3/1942	Memorial closing of courthouse	Motion passed that Courthouse close at noon Jan. 3, 1942 for balance of day in respect to Mrs. Coke R. Stevenson	Y/P 59
9/2/1942	Insurance against riots, sabotage, explosions, war damage	Motion made and carried regarding insurance in which Mr. Begler, County Auditor, is authorized to insure Travis County Courthouse against Civil Riots, sabotage, explosions, and War damage in addition to fire and related risks.	V Y/P 187
11/22/1942	Rat proof jail	Rat proofing of the Jail authorized on a cost basis, the work to be done by the City Health Department, the approximate cost to be \$500.00.	V Y/P 497
9/19/1945	Old Courthouse Block lease	The lease on the Old Courthouse Block (south of Republic Square) between the County and the USA for a portion of the block was extended to 1946.	V Y/P 638
2/28/1946		<i>Negro University Would Iron Out Problem, Stevenson Says</i> Gov Stevenson comment on new legislation making Prairie View a university.	AS
3/16/1946		<i>UT May Reject Negro but State Must Provide Equal Educational Opportunity</i> AG opinion that UT may refuse admittance to Sweatt, if they provide an equal educational opportunity at another institution within Texas.	AS
4/24/1946	Old Courthouse Block lease	Lease on a portion of the Old Courthouse Block (SE portion) between Travis County and the USA continued.	V Z/P 77
5/15/1946	Repair work	<i>Motion by Mr. Swenson and seconded by Mr. Allred to</i>	V Z/P 94

		<i>advertise for bids for renovating Courthouse subject to preparation of specifications by Mr. Kreisle. Passed by all.</i>	
5/25/1946	Repair work	Notice to contractors of bid advertisement for repair work at courthouse. Repairs include caulking exterior door and window openings and metal spandrels; repaint exterior windows and frames, gates and handrails; waterproof parapets and repair roof leaks; repaint heating system radiators and piping; repair damaged plaster on walls and ceilings; repaint damaged plaster on walls and ceilings. Specifications prepared by Edwin C. Kreisle, Architect.	V Z/P 100-101
5/25/1946	Repair work	Specifications for repair work, prepared by Edwin C. Kreisle, Architect. The specifications describe the procedures and materials to be used for the repairs. Two areas where the roof leaks are noted. The plaster repairs are due to infiltration of water, and are described as being on the third and fifth floors, where they come under roof between exterior walls and setback upper walls, and damaged plaster on the north wall of the 53 rd District Courtroom on the fourth floor.	V Z/P 109-113
6/12/1946	Repair work	Proposals for repairs received from Moore Construction for a total of \$14,493. Contract recorded in the minutes.	V Z/P 113-117
9/14/1946	Mopping flashings	Bid on mopping flashings at courthouse on roof of first floor, third floor and fifth floors from Moore Construction.	V Z/P 157
5/12/1947		<i>Sweatt Counsel Granted Delay to Prepare Reply</i> First day of the second Sweatt trial, which was returned to the 126 th District Court by the Court of Civil Appeals for a new trial, because of changes in the law since Sweatt began his suit last year.	AS
5/13/1947		<i>Regent Defends Negro Law Unit</i> Interim law school opened at 104 East 13 th Street for Negroes, equal to the UT Law School, asserted by chair of UT Board of Regents.	AS
5/14/1947		<i>Negro Law Book Effort Defended</i> More trial reporting, centered on books in the law library of the interim Negro law school.	AS
5/15/1947		<i>Educators Testify in Sweatt Trial</i> Three nationally prominent educators provided testimony that Negroes and whites have the same ability to learn, that small segregated schools offer limited education and that the apportionment of funding for Negro schools in Texas is far below that required by law.	AS
5/16/1947		<i>Experts' Opinions Conflict in Closing Sweatt Testimony</i> The final day of trial testimony centered on whether a class of one was equal to a larger class, in terms of the education experience.	AS
6/18/1947	Beds for Negro Block of jail	<i>Upon a motion by Commissioner Swenson and second by Commissioner Allred, an order was passed on this the 18th day of June, A.D. 1947, by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas, authorizing the County Auditor to purchase for the Negro Block of the Travis County Jail 6 (six) steel bunks, from Modern Supply Company, at a unit cost of \$45 each or a total of \$270. Passed unanimously.</i>	V Z/P 324

6/25/1947	Acoustical material	Notice to bidders of project to furnish and install approximately 10,000 square feet of acoustical material. Specifications and details available from County Auditor.	V Z/P 326
7/12/1947	Acoustical material	Bids for acoustical material work opened. All bids rejected, work to be re-advertised.	V Z/P 335
8/2/1947	Acoustical material	New bid notice on acoustical work project, with unit prices, start date and working days now required.	V Z/P 344
8/14/1947	Acoustical material	Bids opened on acoustical material work. G.B. Prentiss offered to use 12" x 12" beveled acoustical tiles, installed with plaster border.	V Z/P 354
10/11/1947	Parking	<i>To the Honorable City Council and City Manager, Austin, Texas</i> <i>Gentlemen: You are requested by the Commissioners Court of Travis County, Texas to establish one hour parking on the west side of Guadalupe Street, between 10th and 11th streets, which is the frontage immediately east of the main entrance to the Travis County Courthouse. Our reason for this request is to provide parking space for the general public who have business in the Courthouse.</i>	V Z/P 369
6/5/1948	Old Courthouse Block lease	County entered in to new lease with the US Government for this block. Voided old lease terms.	Z/P 473
2/9/1949	Refrigerator for jail	Bids for mechanical refrigerator for jail. (Not clear whether this is unit air conditioner or a refrigerator.)	V Z/P 574
4/20/1949	Progressive Party	<i>Motion made by Commissioner Allred and seconded by Commissioner Gault that Progressive Party not be granted right to use Court House for meetings until further information can be obtained about the Party.</i>	V Z/P 608
6/4/1949	Roof repair	<i>Motion made by Mr. Allred and seconded by Mr. Boothe that Mr. _____ bid on repairing roof (not to exceed \$100.00) be accepted. Passed.</i>	V Z/P 629
10/15/1949	Roof re-construction	Ad/notice for Courthouse roof and flashing reconstruction work	V 1/P 33
2/18/1950	Roof re-construction	Bids for roof work to be received on 3/8/1950	V 1/P 68-69
3/8/1950	Roof re-construction	Bids opened. Four bids received. Minutes do not indicate what action was taken.	V 1/P 73
3/29/1950	53 rd Dist Court	<i>Motion made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. Swenson that fans in 53rd District Court Room be replaced.</i>	V 1/P 77
4/10/1950	Incinerator	Bid to repair incinerator from Howard White approved	V 1/P 81
8/5/1950	Repainting	Notice to bidders for interior repainting work at Courthouse and Jail. Plans and specifications prepared by Niggli and Gustafson, Architects. (Niggli was employed by Page Bros during original construction of Courthouse.) Bids due 8/23/1950.	V 1/P 166
8/26/1950	Repainting	Judge authorized to execute contract with Lee Fenner for painting	V 1/P 173
9/6/1950	Old Courthouse Block	Bid advertisement for long term ground lease for Old Courthouse Block, for 60 year term, with a requirement to install \$500,000 worth of improvements on the site.	V 1/P 175
9/13/1950	53 rd , 126 th	<i>Motion made by Mr. Gault and seconded by Mr. Swenson</i>	V 1/P 177

	District Courtrooms	<i>that loud speaker system be installed in 53rd and 126th District Court rooms.</i>	
10/14/1950	53 rd , 98 th District Courtrooms	<i>It was moved by Mr. Allred and seconded by Mr. Gault that 98th, 53rd District Court Rooms woodwork, benches, dais and panels, etc. be sanded, refinished at cost of \$275.00 for each room. Passed.</i>	V 1/P 183
10/18/1950	Gas line	Court authorized repair of gas leak in main line servicing courthouse. Also painting elevator cabs and doors and pipe shafts in jail, to be done by Mr. Fenner as part of repainting work.	V 1/P 185
10/21/1950	Old Courthouse Block	Lease executed with Newspaper Inc. on Old Courthouse Block.	V 1/P 186
12/15/1950	Law Library	Resolution from Travis County Bar Association to purchase wood shelving, ladder and law books for installation in county law library, on 5 th floor of courthouse. Funds to come from the Travis County Law Library fund.	V 1/P 204-205
6/14/1952	District Courtroom chairs	Court authorized reupholstering of chairs in District Courtroom.	V 1/P 398
12/8/1952	County Clerk	Court authorized bid notice on roller book shelf counter for County Clerk office.	V 1/P 502
6/29/1953	County Clerk	Court authorized alterations to the steel counter in the County Clerk's office, to be done by Modern Supply Company.	V 1/P 607
7/5/1953		<i>Old Edifice Near its Twilight Time</i> Walton Building, once the Travis County Courthouse, largely empty. Description of Gov Moody's success in opposing the construction of a new courthouse on the site. Sweep of commissioners court in that struggle to locate the new courthouse.	AAS
8/10/1953	Parking	Alterations to parking ramp in back of Courthouse to create parking spaces for the Sheriff's department.	V 1/P 635
4/12/1954	Jail	Bids for two steel doors for county jail were received, action deferred	V 2/P 154
4/27/1954	Jail	Bid for two steel doors awarded to Torn's Machine Shop for \$150	V 2/P 161
5/24/1954	Basement	Bid awarded to T.A. Webb to install Textone panels in basement for \$240.37	V 2/P 186
9/7/1955		<i>Architects Estimating Million Dollars Needed</i> Project to enlarge and air condition the courthouse to cost \$982,000, per CH Page and CH Page Jr. Preliminary plans for 2 story additions to the north and south and alterations throughout the building. Top to bottom air conditioning and ventilating fans for the jail. Jury waiting room included – used to wait in the hall. A fourth district court is anticipated, so space will be provided for that room. Screens added to both jury dormitories, to keep the jurors from being attacked by mosquitoes. (A recent set of jurors was moved into air conditioned hotel rooms, due to heat and mosquitoes.)	AS
10/25/55		<i>Expansion Program for Courthouse Without Tax</i>	AS

		<i>Increase Under Study</i> Commissioner Swenson advocating a smaller addition, apparently, to avoid a tax increase.	
10/25/55		<i>Courthouse Improvement Tax Hike Thought to be Small, Short-Lived</i> County Judge Tom Johnson predicted a small tax increase of limited duration would be needed to cover the proposed bond issue for the project. Commissioner Swenson amenable to this, since the tax increase is small.	Austin American (AA)
11/14/1955	Jail	Proposal accepted from T.A. Webb to cut tile wall and install door and frame from Jailor's office to closet in Apartment	V 2/P 525
11/22/1955		<i>Renovation Plan Said Too Costly</i> New estimate from architects put project cost at \$1,057,133. Two commissioners predicted the voters would not approve a bond issue of such size, because the tax rate would need to be increased.	AA
11/23/1955		<i>Courthouse Work Voted</i> Commissioners voted in support of proceeding with the bond election, because the required tax increase was predicted to be a small amount, needed for a short duration – three cents increase for three years duration.	Statesman
1/18/1956		<i>Courthouse Bond Vote Postponed</i> County Judge Tom Johnson spoke to the Real Estate Board, noting that the bond election will be held later in the spring for the project. The project will include more room for the tax assessor and county clerk's offices, and will expand work space in the building by about 60%. Parking was a problem even then, but meters had recently been installed, controlling parking around the building, but employee parking was still an issue.	AA
5/14/1956	District Courtrooms	Proposal from TA Webb to install two doors to balconies for District Courtrooms accepted.	V 3/P 7
8/17/1956		<i>No Parking Space Put in Courthouse Plans</i> Expansion plans have been expanded from two-story additions to three-story additions on the north and south sides of the courthouse. No parking included, because of the expense.	AS
9/18/1956		<i>Big Expansion of Courthouse to be Aired</i> Public hearing set for 9/28 to present the plans for the courthouse improvements.	AS
9/24/1956	Additions and Improvem'ts	Notice of public hearing set for 9/28/1956 on plans for additions and improvements (remodeling and air conditioning) of courthouse, to be held in the 98 th District Courtroom. Newspaper ad published on 9/19/1956.	V 3/P 307
9/26/1956		<i>Hearing Slated About Working on Courthouse</i> Public hearing set for 98 th District Courtroom on the 4 th floor of the courthouse.	AS
10/15/1956	Bond election	Order for bond election for additions and improvements, for \$1,500,000 bond issue, election to be held on 11/13/1956.	V 3/P 224-227
11/3/1956		<i>Courthouse Plans Win Jury Okay</i>	AA

		An outgoing grand jury in the 126 th District Court expressed support for the courthouse expansion bonds, and other county improvements.	
11/11/1956		Courthouse Bonds on Ballot Tuesday Description of bond election, courthouse improvements.	AS
11/12/1956		Photo and caption, Proposed Courthouse Architect's rendering of the proposed courthouse additions.	AA
11/14/1956		Bonds Okayed for Courthouse Bonds passed by a large margin, although only a small percentage of voters participated in the election.	AA
11/14/1956		County Officials to Lose No Time in Using Bonds County Judge Tom Johnson hopes to take construction bids as soon as possible, before the end of the year. But, the plans must first be prepared by the architects.	AS
11/1956		Courthouse Bond Sale Snag Seen Two unnamed bond experts expressed concern that the County would not be able to sell bonds at the fixed 3.5 percent ceiling on interest stipulated in the recent vote, and predicted that market conditions would only get less favorable for this.	
11/19/1956	Architect	C. H. Page & Son awarded architectural contract for courthouse addition, at a 6% fee. Text of the contract is given in the minutes.	V 3/P 243-245
11/20/1956		Page Given Courthouse Addition Job Bond election passed, contract with CH Page executed for a \$1.5 million courthouse building program. This is the first major construction work since the original building was completed.	AS
1/23/1957		Editor's Notebook-Court Needs Bill to create a criminal district court in Travis County, to supplement the three existing district courts, introduced at the Leg by Travis delegation.	
1/31/1957		More Space Ahead for Courthouse Description of bond election passing due to County's amazingly low bond indebtedness	AS
3/26/1957	Architect	Partial payment to C.H. Page authorized	V 3/P 292
5/18/1957		4th District Court Set Up for Travis A new district court was added for Travis County, the first in over a quarter century. Court will be active 9/1/1957, with judge to be appointed by Gov Daniel. Court designated as a criminal court, although it will also have civil jurisdiction. This will free the existing courts, the 53 rd , 98 th and 126 th , to handle civil matters exclusively.	DT
10/29/1957		County Dads Sell Courthouse Bonds \$750,000 in bonds sold to First of Texas Corporation. \$150,000 didn't sell because of the long maturity schedule. Remaining \$600,000 sold to the Travis County Permanent School Fund, at a very low interest rate.	AS
11/13/1957		\$150,000 Bonds Sold By County to Fund Remaining bonds sold to the county employee retirement	AA

		system.	
11/26/1957		<i>Courthouse Changes Win County Okay</i> Commissioners authorized last minute changes to the expansion plans to provide more room for growing courts business. Also authorized leasing the Steck Building for temporary use during construction. Special Travis County Bar Association committee. Changes will provide for five full time district courts. Also add a small courtroom for non-jury trials and make new quarters of the county court-at-law and the county probate court available for district court use by enlarging jury boxes to seat 12 jurors instead of 6. (Previous plans provided space for three civil district courts and one criminal district court now in operation.) District judge D. B. Wood, of Georgetown, of the Third Administrative Judicial District, noted there is enough use already to warrant creation of a fifth district court by the legislature.	AA
1/29/1958		<i>Capitol A</i> New Criminal District Court set up last September, with Judge Mace Thurman appointed as judge. (This must be the 147 th District Court.)	AA
1/30/1958	Additions and Improvem' ts	<i>All members present except Commr. Swenson. Commr. Gault moved that advertisement for bids on the construction of additions and improvements to the Courthouse to be submitted by Febr. 25, 1958 at 2:30 PM be published. Motion seconded by Commr. Boothe and adopted by the Court.</i>	V 5/ P 39
2/25/1958	Additions	Bids received on additions and improvements from 8 general contractors, 15 plumbing/HVAC/electrical contractors, three dumbwaiter contractors and two jail equipment contractors. C.H. Page & Son reviewed bids, recommended award to six separate contractors, for a total of \$1,218,008. Motion in accord with architect's recommendation unanimously adopted by the Court.	V 5/P 53-57
3/4/1958	Halls	<i>Motion by Comm. Gault, second by Comm. Swenson, that reservations by organizations for hall space in the Courthouse to serve food be discontinued after letting bids for construction, and that existing reservations be cancelled when work actually starts. Motion adopted.</i>	V 5/P 58
3/4/1958		<i>County Lets Contracts for Air Condition Job</i> Contracts totaling \$1,218,008 awarded, all to Austin firms Archie Fitzgerald, GC, \$697,300.	AS
3/10/1958	Architect	Partial payment to C.H. Page & Son authorized, based on percentage of recently received construction contracts awarded.	V 5/P 64
3/10/1958	Relocation	Bids on moving from the Courthouse to Steck Building (to be used as temporary courthouse location during construction work) opened and awarded, and contracts for construction signed by Court.	V 5/P 63
4/7/1958	Relocation	Order designating the second floor of the Steck Building, 207 West 9 th Street, as the Courthouse Annex, and the legal site for all District Court, County Court and Grand Jury sessions, and the official office of the courts.	V 5/P 78

4/7/1958		<i>Courthouse Moving Day Big Turmoil</i> Work began, while occupants were packing up for move to temporary quarters. Workers began knocking down a balcony which overlooked the 98 th District Courtroom. County tax office was on the 2 nd floor, where folks were lined up to get late auto tags purchased.	AA
4/14/1958	Change order for flooring	Change order to addition contract, to include removal of original tile floors in Corridors 211, 323, 414 and passages 402 and 424, to be replaced with new terrazzo floors. Also, grind floors and base, fill cracks, seal and polish existing terrazzo floors at Rooms 201, 202, 240 and 4 th and 5 th floor offices.	V 5/P 80
7/7/1958	Alternate for cleaning stone	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Gault and seconded by Commissioner Swenson that Alternate Bid No. 1 for cleaning old stone in amount of \$9,500.00 awarded to Archie Fitzgerald. Motion adopted.</i>	V 5/P 131
9/29/1958	Venetian blinds	The Court opened two bids opened on venetian blinds and awarded the work to Dills-Challstrom for \$3,980. (Note that it is not clear whether this was for the courthouse, or some other building.)	V 5/P 240
1/5/1959	Addition claims, change orders	<i>A motion was made by Commr. Gault and seconded by Commr. Swenson to pay the claims of Archie Fitzgerald and Porter Plumbing & Heating Co. on Court House Improvements. Passed.</i> <i>A motion was made by Commr. Gault and seconded by Commr. Swenson to let Porter Plumbing & Heating Co. install a thermostat to control the temperature in the Auditor's Office at a cost of \$433.85. Passed.</i>	V 5/P 337
1/12/1959	County Clerk	Letter from Clerk requesting consideration of funds for clerical assistance, due to significant increases in case filings.	V 5/P 340
2/24/1959	County Clerk	Motion to accept bid for counters and tables for Clerk's office	V 5/P 360
3/3/1959	Improvem'ts	Motions to rebuild fuse panel, build a wooden ramp at 5 th floor men's restroom.	V 5/P 360
3/9/1959	Criminal District Court	Motion to advertise for bids for benches in Criminal District Court room passed.	V 5/P 360
3/30/1959	Relocation	Bids for move of District Courts back to courthouse taken	V 5/P 372
4/6/1959	Relocation	Bids for sale of temporary partitions in Steck Bldg, payment of semi-final estimate of contractor approved.	V 5/P 372
4/7/1959	Addition	Motion to pay claims of Dill's-Challstrom and Johnson Elevator	V 5/P 376
4/13/1959	Addition	Motions to pay Fox Schmidt, CH Page, Porter Plumbing	V 5/P 394
5/18/1959	Addition	Payment to Archie Fitzgerald made, except for \$1,482.49 held back for certain repairs yet to be made.	V 5/P 434
10/19/1959	Elevator	Three bids on elevator remodeling opened, award to be made on 10/26/1959.	V 5/P 567
11/3/1959	Elevator	Bids on elevator remodeling awarded to B.F. Johnson Elevator Co.	V 5/P 568
5/27/1961	Bond Election	Bond election for \$625,000 in bonds for constructing	V 6/P 375

		additions and improvements to the Courthouse and Jail held. The bonds are approved by a majority of the voters.	
6/5/1961	Jail Improvem' ts	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Gault to enter into contract with C. H. Page & Son for the County Jail Improvements. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 194
6/19/1961	Elevator	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Gault that agreement with B.F. Johnson Elevator Company to install outside directional lighted arrows for both elevators on second, third and fourth floors be executed by the County Judge. All Ayes.</i>	V 6/P 196
9/18/1961	Halls	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Gault and seconded by Commissioner Boothe to award the bid for acoustical tile for the hall ceiling on the fourth floor of the County Courthouse to Calcasieu Lumber Co. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 270
12/11/1961	Architect	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Gault and seconded by Commissioner Swenson that the claims submitted by the Auditor, including the bill from Chas. H. Page Architect, for \$7,500.00 on fee, be approved and ordered paid. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 300
7/2/1962	Bonds for Jail Improvem' ts	Bids for \$400,000.00 Courthouse and Jail Bonds ordered opened. Award made to two bond sources.	V 6/P 374
7/9/1962	Bonds	Order authorizing issuance of \$400,000 in bonds, a lesser amount than was passed in the bond election.	V 6/P 375-384
7/16/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	<i>A motion was made by Commr. Gault, and seconded by Commr. Barker, that an advertisement be published for bids to be submitted to the court on the Courthouse and Jail improvements and additions, sealed bids to be opened on Aug. 9, 1962 at 2 o'clock PM. Motion adopted.</i>	V 6/P 384
8/9/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	Bids opened, bid tabulations not legible. Award made to eight contractors, for a total of \$598,686.75.	V 6/P 410-411
8/27/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	Award made to eight contractors, for a total of \$598,686.75.	V 6/P 412
10/8/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Gault and seconded by Commissioner Boothe to approve partial payment of \$10,710.00 to B.L. McGee Construction Co. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 450
10/15/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Boothe and seconded by Commissioner Swenson to approve the payment of \$1,484.82 to Air Conditioning, Inc. for work done on Court House construction. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 450
11/13/1962	Jail Improvem' ts	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Barker and seconded by Commissioner Gault to allow construction of storage space on the 5th floor of the County Courthouse in the hall to be used at present as temporary offices for the Commissioners. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 458
12/3/1962	District Courtrooms, county court at law	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Boothe that the request of the University of Texas Law School for permission to install a closed-circuit television camera & microphone in three of the District Court and the County Court-at-Law be approved. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 460
3/11/1963	Jail District Clerk	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Boothe and seconded by Commissioner Barker to allow the installation of plexiglass in the County Jail at an additional cost of \$1,624.00 and allow changes in arrangement of the District Clerk's Office at an</i>	V 6/P 524

		<i>additional cost of \$93.00. Passed.</i>	
5/20/1963	Interior Improvem'ts	<i>A motion was made by Commissioner Swenson and seconded by Commissioner Gault to sign a contract with C. H. Page & Son for completion of the second floor jail and the fourth and fifth floor interiors. Passed.</i>	V 6/P 624
7/15/1963	Interior Improvem'ts	<i>All bids received for plumbing, heating & ventilation, electrical, jail equipment, & sound equipment be rejected without opening same and that the County Auditor be authorized to re-advertise for bids to be opened on July 31, 1963.</i>	V 7/P 53
7/31/1963	Interior Improvem'ts	Bids opened, awarded to low bidders	V 7/P 57
8/12/1963	Interior Improvem'ts	Work order changes in building construction approved. Passed.	V 7/P 67
3/23/1964	Interior Improvem'ts	Change order for work performed by B. L. McGee Const. Co in auditor's office approved	V 7/P 233
3/30/1964	Interior Improvem'ts	<i>Courthouse addition approved for jail mirrors, amount of costs \$544.60. Passed.</i>	V 7/P 340
3/30/1964	Historical marker	<i>Motion made to sanction proposal made by Mrs. Jessie McIlroy Smith to place a plaque or marker at each old courthouse site in Travis County. Passed.</i>	V 7/P 340
6/1/1964	Parking	<i>Northeast corner of Courthouse property at 1000 Guadalupe to be paved for parking area for sheriff's deputies to provide additional parking space in front of Courthouse.</i>	V 7/P 372
6/1/1964	167 th District Court	167 th District Court created by 58 th Legislature, H.B. 370	
6/8/1964	Parking	<i>Bids ordered opened for paving of parking lot in front of Courthouse, bids were as follows: Austin Paving Co. \$2051.00 Maufrais Bros. \$2231.00 Giesen & Latson \$1855.00 Contract awarded to Giesen & Latson Construction Co. for total amount of \$1855.00. Passed</i>	V 7/P 372
6/12/1964	Interior Improvem'ts	Change Order No. 2 approved	V 7/P 380
7/17/1964	Annex	Purchase of Albert Vanderlee property Purchase of property from Albert Vanderlee for the sum of \$115,000.00 approved. Property covered is the East 46' of Lot #3 and South portion of Lot #4 Block #128, the Original City of Austin, Travis County Texas plat. Herbert Smartt, Atty to be employed by Travis County to handle legal details and purchase of tract of land from Albert Vanderlee. Passed.	V 7/P 444- 445
8/1/1964	Annex	Order authorizing exchange of \$100,000.00 in Permanent Improvement Time Warrants with Albert Vanderlee for property purchased and deeded to Travis County as of August 1, 1964. Passed.	V 7/P 470
8/3/1964	Jail	Installation of bullet proof glass and a door grate in new jail approved and passed.	V 7/P 470
8/3/1964	Jail Improvem'ts	Follow-up order on payments to architect, contractor	V 7/P 476- 481

8/10/1964	Jail	Installation of seven shower stalls for County jail for the amount of \$12521.00 approved and passed.	V 7/P 470
10/19/1964	Annex	Construction of a partition in the Building at 1000 San Antonio St. at cost of \$167.85 Authorized. Passed.	V 7/P 644
1/6/1965		Judges Don Robes Photo of Travis County's five district court judges – 53 rd , Judge Herman Jones; 147 th , Judge Mace Thurman; 98 th - Judge Charles O. Betts, 126 th -Judge Jack Roberts; 167 th - Judge Tom Raveley	AS
2/12/1965	Vents	<i>Two vents to be installed in Courthouse, one vent to be in the County Attorney's office on fourth floor and one to be put in Auditor's office on fifth floor. Passed and approved.</i> <i>An exhaust fan to be installed on roof of Courthouse building to draw escaping fumes from building. Passed and approved.</i>	V 8/P 17
4/5/1965	Security	Sheriff suggests security improvements for Courthouse, including locking the courthouse at night and on holidays.	V 8/P 82
4/5/1965	Security	Commissioner Gault appointed to investigate the need for and cost of further securing the Courthouse building from entry at nights and on week-ends, and to report back to the Commissioners' Court next week. New inter-communication system between the sheriff's office and the jail approved for installation.	V 8/P 84
4/12/1965	Jail Improvem'ts	<i>That the agreed settlement with the General Contractor on the jail additions and improvements be accepted and that the general contractor be paid, passed and approved.</i>	V 8/P 84
10/11/1968		Triple Ceremonies New Judge of 167 th District Court Tom Blackwell.	AS
12/10/1968		Water Fountain Approved Commissioners approved expenditure of \$542 to add a second water fountain to the 5 th floor of the building. More people on this floor, since several offices were moved up there. Commissioners Court and offices, among others, are on that floor.	AA
1/18/1970		Nation's Courts Will Be Scene of 70's Freedom Fights Discussion of "problems of the 70's", in determining individual freedoms versus individual taxpayer expenses. Judge Thurman concerned with clogged dockets, long wait for trial. Travis County now has five district courts, Judge says need two more now. County Attorney Ned Granger says need at least one more county court at law. 147 th District Court on the 3 rd floor.	AAS
5/5/1970		Court Establishes New Parking Lot Public parking lot established west of the courthouse. Lot between 10 th and 11 th , entered on San Antonio, for 75 cars. Courthouse visitors may park free for 1 hour, and then pay 25 cents per hour after that. Jury duty or trial witnesses may park free. Courthouse employees were relocated for this public lot.	AA
6/16/1970		County May Raise Courthouse Roof Committee of commissioners suggested the possibility of adding two floor to part of the existing courthouse. In the interim, the Personal Bond Department was moved from	AA

		the first floor to the third floor, to create new space for Precinct 3, Place 1 JP Buck Smith, and a city tax suits office. DA also requested more space, but no action taken.	
11/20/1970		<i>Courthouse Space Consultant Sought</i> Several architectural firms interviewed by the court to plan an expansion of the courthouse. The sheriff reported that the jail is often over capacity. (filed in 1950s)	Am
4/2/1971		<i>UT Student Jailed in Door Breaking</i> Student kicked out lower panel of glass entry door at Guadalupe entry, in dispute over vehicle transfer tax of \$9.	AA
7/20/1971		<i>Building Plans Get Approval</i> BLGY hired to design new two-story building on San Antonio, directly behind the exiting courthouse. To be later expanded to a five story structure, with underground parking.	AA
8/10/1971		<i>Courthouse Expansion Advances</i> Renovation of the courthouse annex at 1000 San Antonio completed, for use by Travis County Legal Aid and Defenders Society and county school superintendent. County printing and reproduction shop will also move. Jail identification bureau will take their space at first floor of courthouse. Plans to build a second annex on the same block were delayed, pending resolution on a question of a survey.	AA
8/17/1971		<i>Courthouse Expansion Plans Again Topic of County Dads</i> More discussion of annex expansion, to be done by BLGY. Project to be a 5-story underground parking/office building, to go behind existing courthouse. Also discussed moving prisoners to serve week-end sentences to the Operation Brotherhood building at 1 st St and IH 35. Also, professional investigation of jail conditions forthcoming.	AA
9/1/1971	200 th District Court	200 th District Court created by the 62 nd Legislature, S.B. 515	
5/3/1972		<i>Grant Aids DA's Office</i> Criminal Justice Council grant of over \$70,000 allowed the DA office to hire its first investigators since 1954. Grant will provide funds for two investigators, two additional district attorneys and two secretaries. Employees will be divided into groups of three, with one working out of the police station and one out of the courthouse. (filed with 1950s)	Citizen
7/29/1972		<i>Annex on Agenda At Secret Meeting</i> Commissioners met on real estate matter related to annex site, block between 10 th and 11 th , Nueces and San Antonio. Bids projected for early September, groundbreaking for early October. \$3.25 million in bonds passed in countywide bond election early this year. First phase of the annex to cost \$1.7 million. Land to be acquired is 6 parcels, most residences on the north side of the alley. Remainder of the block is county owned, used for public and employee parking, and print shop and county school	AS

		superintendent office building.	
9/6/1972		<i>Courthouse Annex Bidding Due Soon</i> Bid opening on 9/11, for two-story building, with possible later addition. Still working to acquire the rest of the land in the block.	AA
9/9/1972		<i>Courthouse Annex</i> Architect's rendering of annex, two-story building to house computer department and some parking in the basement, tax assessor-collector office on first floor, and second floor with Veterans Services office, county treasurer, auditor, commissioners court and commissioners offices.	AA
10/12/1972		<i>Commissioners Open Six Bids For New Annex to Courthouse</i> Six bids received, all within budget.	AA
10/17/1972		<i>Commissioners Award Contract For New Annex to Courthouse</i> Award made to Faulkner Construction, in the amount of \$1,034,000. Still working on acquiring adjacent lots.	AA
11/2/1972		<i>Work on Annex Begins</i> Photo of cleared construction site.	AA
11/14/1972		<i>Courthouse Auto Garage Is Planned</i> Plans for a seven-level parking garage for public and employees, to be located on the southwest corner of 10 th and San Antonio, were begun. Article describes progress on Annex construction, ongoing parking problem for employees and public.	AA
1/1/1973	201 st District Court	201 st District Court created by the 62 nd Legislature, S.B. 515	
2/5/1973		<i>County Commissioners May Add Courthouse "Shell"</i> Commissioners discussed provision of 3 rd floor shell and aerial walkway. Also, in design is a parking garage for 200 cars on the site south of the annex site. Some of the remaining land bought for parking.	AA
3/6/1973		<i>Funding Approved for Annex</i> Commissioners approved initial funding on annex expansion plans, to include a 3 rd floor shell and a covered walkway between the courthouse and annex. There is also a 7 floor parking garage plan, but estimates still coming in on that, so funds not authorized in this meeting.	AA
3/6/1973		<i>Parking Complaint Draws Suggestion</i> Letter to the editor from county employee draws letter of response from Commissioner Voudouris.	AA
3/7/1973		<i>County Encounters Snags Over Proposed Garage</i> State law does not allow counties to build high-rise parking garages. Also, soil conditions suggest design changes. Description of three houses on the lot west of the courthouse to be retained by the county – historic rock house at 507 W. 11 th , brown wooden home at 510 W. 10 th , white brick two-story house at NW corner of the block.	AA
4/17/1973		<i>Boilers Can't pass Inspection Due to Lack of Safety Devices</i>	AA

	Two original boilers must be replaced, since state inspectors will no longer allow their use. Article references the walls of the first floor and basement as support walls, which may create a problem for installers if they have to remove a wall to allow for installation of the new boilers.	
4/20/1973	<i>Politicking Used on Walkway Plan</i> The aerial walkway between the courthouse and the annex was unfavorably reviewed by the COA environmental committee. So, the County was slowing their reply to a request to extend the dump near Bergstrom, to facilitate discussion on the aerial walkway issue.	AA
4/24/1973	<i>Aerial Walkway Wins Okay</i> Aerial walkway approved by the Citizens Board of Natural Resources and Environmental Quality environmental review committee. The committee will make the same recommendation to the full board shortly.	AA
5/1/1973	<i>Courthouse Annex Contract Extended</i> Faulkner's contract increased by \$260,000 to add third floor shell to the annex.	AA
5/30/1973	<i>Commissioners See Models of Buildings Being Planned</i> Commissioners viewed rendering of Annex and model of parking garage, both to be completed by Feb 1974. <i>Approved a plan for complete remodeling and carpeting of the Pct. 3 justice Place 2 of the peace offices (formerly occupied by Don Cantrell, who resigned) as the first step in remodeling the old courthouse.</i> <i>JP Jim McMurtry, who has been occupying the place 1 office, thus will get the first carpet in the courthouse work space. His old office probably will be occupied by the district attorney's complaint section. Cantrell's slot will be eliminated in JP redistricting.</i>	AA
6/1/1973	<i>Official Seeks Removal of Houses for Parking</i> Only one of the three houses on the lot south of the annex has been removed. Commissioners also approved the contract with architect Youngblood on the parking garage, and awarded a contract to H.L. Arnold to put in new courthouse boilers for \$19,330.	AA
7/21/1973	<i>Inflation May Balloon Parking Garage Cost</i> Bids for garage forthcoming, and architect informed Commissioners that recent inflation in construction and payroll costs will likely cause a 25% increase in the construction cost.	AA
7/31/1973	<i>County Okays Bid on Garage</i> Commissioners awarded bid of \$540,000 for the garage and \$141,600 for the aerial walkway to Syring-Workman construction. Work to begin on Monday, when the work order is signed.	AA
8/1/1973	<i>County Schedules Cleanup Saturday</i> Houses were removed from the lot to the west of the Annex, but foundation and other debris remains. Construction to begin on the parking garage, and the area of the houses to be used for employee parking. But, cleanup must be done	AA

	over the weekend, to prepare the site for use as a parking lot. Also reference to removing a rear, wooden addition to the Brizendine House.	
8/18/1973	<i>Commissioners Against Wall On County Property Dispute</i> Property line dispute with property to the west of the parking garage site. Kuhn and Collins, 507 W. 10 th , has a 125' rock wall as east boundary of the lot. County is claiming a line several feet east of that wall. Temporary restraining order signed by 167 th District Court Judge Tom Blackwell. County may take property by condemnation.	AS
8/24/1973	<i>Judge's Decision Due Today On County Property Dispute</i> The survey shows the property line where the county has designed to, but the existing rock or concrete wall is 3' east of that line. The adjacent property owners claim adverse possession of the 3' strip.	AA
8/25/1973	<i>McAngus Refuses Injunction on Wall</i> Injunction denied, but civil suit still pending on the property line dispute. County to decide appropriate response – trim parking garage, wait for suit to be resolved, proceed with construction.	AS
9/5/1973	<i>Property Line Decision Due Friday</i> Contractors inform the Commissioners that they must have a decision on how to proceed with the construction of the garage. <i>Commissioners also approved a shuffling of courthouse office space to make room for two new assistant county attorneys.....</i>	AA
9/7/1973	<i>County Trying Condemnation To Clear Way for Garage</i> County to condemn 3' strip in question at garage site. Will survey the property line, and then set the west wall of the garage 18" inside the line.	AA
9/8/1973	<i>County Rate for Parking May Double</i> Commissioners discussed increasing the rate for employee parking provided. There are 400 employees at the courthouse, and employee parking for 16 is provided. New open lot south of the Annex will provide 24 more spaces. The new parking garage, when complete, will provide 200 spaces, of which 100 will be for employees.	AS
9/19/1973	<i>Courthouse Woes: Bats on the Ceiling, Walls Falling Down</i> Bat on ceiling outside first assistant district attorney's office. Piece of marble wainscot fell off the wall in the hall outside the district judges' offices.	AA
1/30/1975	<i>County To Sell Bonds To Fund Building Annex</i> Some of the bonds previously earmarked for the courthouse annex to be sold to fund other building expansions. Commissioners also discussed plans to remodel the new annex to provide enclosed office space for each commissioner and the county judge's aides.	AS
2/8/1975	<i>Commissioners Ideas On Renovation Alarm Many</i> Article about proposal to remodel new annex to provide	Austin Citizen

		enclosed office area for commissioner's aides, take some of the auditor's storage area and provide space for the county judge.	
4/26/1975		<i>Centipedes Flee Blasting</i> Exterior of the courthouse now being sandblasted. Centipedes being driven into the building. Jail prisoner filed a \$50,000 civil rights suit for being served a centipede sandwich, and sheriff says several centipedes have been found in the jail. Sheriff requested commissioners to do a centipede extermination program.	Austin Citizen
9/1/1977	250 th District Court	250 th District Court created by the 65 th Legislature, S.B. 368	
9/1/1977	261 st District Court	261 st District Court created by the 65 th Legislature, S.B. 368	
7/18/1978		<i>Jail Work to Take 6 Months</i> Contract to Fox & Hearn to renovate the jail for \$116,190 was awarded. Renovation work to include air conditioning, new lighting, space for 32 new prisoners and general repairs. Architect is Lamar Youngblood	AS
9/1/1982	299 th District Court	299 th District Court created by the 67 th Legislature, HB. 958	
9/1/1982	331 st District Court	331 st District Court created by the 67 th Legislature, HB. 958	
11/18/1982		<i>Austinite gets \$7 Million in Settlement</i> Case heard in 147 th District Court against Yamaha Motor Co, brought by Jeff Lane. Lane received injuries resulting from a collision in 1979 in which the motorcycle Lane was driving was equipped with a faulty gasoline cap. (filed in 1950s section)	Daily Texan (DT)
9/1/1983	345 th District Court	345 th District Court created by 68 th Legislature, H.B. 1473	
6/22/1984		<i>Old Courthouse to be Renovated</i> Plans for renovation of the courthouse, including inserting new floors in the two-level volumes of the two original District Courtrooms, were prepared by the Wooldridge Group. Plans not submitted to the THC for review, as required by state law. THC and Travis County worked out a compromise, involving the preservation of the remaining portion of the original 98 th District Courtroom (at the east end of the fourth floor) and curation of the plaster medallions removed from the original 53 rd District Courtroom (at the west end of the fourth floor). Article refers to needing to relocate air-conditioning ducts to the jail level, in order to allow for the full restoration of these two district courtrooms.	DT
1/1/1985	353 rd District Court	353 rd District Court created by 68 th Legislature, H.B. 1473	
2/6/1986		<i>Courthouse Decay Blamed on Neglect</i> Former Travis County Tax Assessor Bill Aleshire blamed the current administration on the poor condition of the courthouse. Aleshire was running for county judge, and campaigned to provide better management. He cited a	DT

		persistent leak outside a 5 th floor judges office and leaks from the jail showers on the 6 th floor. He accused commissioners of using funds for remodeling their offices, instead of making repairs to the courthouse. Sitting commissioners responded that they had tried to fix roof leaks, but had been told that the roof design was faulty.	
1994-1995		<i>Juror Handbook, 1994-1995</i> This brochure shows the locations of the various courtrooms at that time.	Courts of Travis County
10/1/1999	390 th District Court	390 th District Court created by 76 th Legislature, H.B. 400	
12/1/2000	403 rd District Court	403 rd District Court created by the 76 th Legislature, H.B. 400	
2001		<i>The Travis County Courthouse</i> Illustrated brochure describing the history of the courthouse. Includes several errors regarding the first additions made to the courthouse, ca. 1958, (the brochure describes these as happening in the 1970s, which is incorrect), and the exterior renovations, ca. 1975 (the brochure describes these as happening along with the 1958 additions, which is incorrect).	Travis County Historical Commission
3/15/2005		<i>Commissioners Court Calls for Recommendations to Name the Historic Courthouse</i> Commissioner Ron Davis suggested that the courthouse be named after Heman Marion Sweatt. Commissioners voted to begin the procedure adopted by the court in 1996 for the naming of county facilities, which begins with recommendations from the public.	TC press release
5/2005		Major Jim Sylvester of the Sheriff's Department submitted the name of George S. Mathews, former County Commissioner, Judge and Sheriff of Travis County. Mathews was the County Judge during the time of the design and bond election for the historic courthouse.	Email, flier
6/14/2005		Commissioners Court voted, on a 4-to-1 vote, to rename the courthouse the Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse.	Webarchive, minutes of 6/14/2005
9/1/2005	419 th District Court	419 th District Court created by 78 th Legislature, S.B. 1551	
10/21/2005		Heman Marion Sweatt Courthouse Dedication Ceremony	
1/1/2007	427 th District Court	427 th District Court created by 79 th Legislature, S.B. 1189	
2008		<i>The Heman Marion Sweatt Travis County Courthouse</i> Illustrated brochure describing the history of the courthouse and the Sweatt v. Painter trial.	Travis County Comm'rs Court